OUR KINGDOM M[redacted]Y

January 2008 For United States of America km08 01-E Us Vol. 51, No. 1

Help Bible Students to Become Publishers of the Kingdom Good News

[1] The commission that Jesus laid upon his disciples as expressed at Matthew 28:19, 20 was far-reaching indeed. Christ's disciples were instructed to make more disciples who, in turn, would carry on with the disciple-making work. A foundation would be laid for the final worldwide proclamation of the good news of God's Kingdom during the momentous time of the end, where we now find ourselves.—Matt. 24:14.

[2] Our Bible students may be our children or others who are willing to study the Bible with us. We genuinely want to help such ones to accept individual responsibility to help others become disciples of Jesus Christ.—Luke 6:40.

[3] **Prepare Them to Give a Witness:** Urge those you study with to share with others what they are learning. Relate encouraging field service experiences to them. Train your children from an early age to participate in the ministry in a meaningful way according to their ability. (Ps. 148:12, 13) Show by word and example your appreciation for the ministry. —1 Tim. 1:12.

[4] Jehovah uses only those who accept and abide by his righteous standards. Of course, new publishers do not know as much as experienced, dedicated, and baptized Kingdom ministers, but the new ones must believe and be able to explain basic Bible teachings. (See *Organized*, pp. 79-82.) Having completely separated themselves from "Babylon the Great" and all involvement in politics, they should be attending congregation meetings regularly. —Rev. 18:2, 4; John 17:16; Heb. 10:24, 25.

[5] As soon as you believe that one of your Bible students qualifies to be an unbaptized publisher, this should be brought to the attention of the presiding overseer. He will arrange for two elders to meet with you and your Bible student to determine whether he qualifies as an unbaptized publisher of the Kingdom good news in association with the congregation. It will then be your privilege to broaden the training of your Bible student as he accompanies you in field service.

Make the Most of Your Time in the Ministry

[1] There is certainly much to be accomplished in our ministry, and the time left is reduced. (John 4:35; 1 Cor. 7:29) With good organization and advance planning, we can make the most of the time we have scheduled for the ministry.

[2] **Be Prepared:** Before going to the meeting for field service, make sure that you have the literature you will need and have your presentation well in mind. After the meeting is closed with prayer, go directly into the field. This will allow you and those working with you to accomplish as much as possible in the time available for field service.

[3] If you are assigned to conduct the meeting for field service, begin on time. Keep the meeting brief—no more than 10 to 15 minutes. Before you dismiss the group, make sure that each one knows where and with whom he is going to work.

[4] **While in the Ministry:** Once the meeting for field service ends, do not linger unnecessarily, but begin making your way to the territory. If you anticipate having to leave the territory early, perhaps you can arrange for your own transportation so that the rest of the group does not have to leave early. When working with a group, be considerate of the others who may be waiting for you to finish a discussion. That could involve withdrawing tactfully from a person who is argumentative or arranging to call back on one who is interested.—Matt. 10:11.

[5] When making return visits, you can avoid unnecessary travel by caring for calls in one neighborhood before going to another. It may be possible to telephone certain individuals to make sure that they will be home. (Prov. 21:5) If you anticipate a lengthy visit, arrangements can be made for those in your group to preach nearby or to make another return visit.

[6] We are living in the time of a great spiritual harvest. (Matt. 9: 37, 38) Soon the work will end. Therefore, our desire should be to make good use of our time while in the ministry.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 14

Song 41

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!*

15 min: "Make the Most of Your Time in the Ministry."* Interview a brother who is exemplary at taking out the group for field service. What does he do to prepare to take out the group and make the most of the time spent in the ministry?

20 min: "Let Your Utterance Be Always . . . Seasoned With Salt."* When considering paragraph 2, read John 4:7-15, 39.

Song 85

Week Starting January 21

Song 215

10 min: Local announcements. Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated. Encourage everyone to view the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* in preparation for the discussion that will be held at the Service Meeting the week of February 4.

10 min: Are You Using *Examining the Scriptures Daily?* Talk and audience discussion based on the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2008.* Discuss the value of taking time each day to review the Scripture text and comments. Invite audience to comment on their routine for considering the text and how they have benefited. One or two comments may be arranged in advance. Briefly highlight the yeartext for 2008.

25 min: "Bear Thorough Witness to the Good News."* (Pars. 1-10) To be handled by the service overseer. Interview one or two publishers who auxiliary pioneered within the last year despite having a full schedule or physical infirmities. How were they able to do it? What joys did they experience? When considering paragraph 7, outline the schedule for meetings for field service during March, April, and May.

Song 177

Week Starting January 28

Song 52

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Audience discussion based on the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!* After giving a brief overview of each issue, ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to mention specific points in articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? How could the scripture be tied in? Using the sample presentations on page 8, demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

20 min: "Bear Thorough Witness to the Good News."* (Pars. 11-17) If the special Memorial invitations are available, distribute a copy to everyone in the audience when considering paragraph 14. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.

15 min: "Help Bible Students to Become Publishers of the Kingdom Good News."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 22

Week Starting February 4

Song 161

10 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "Are You Putting It Off?" To be handled by an elder. Get right into a discussion of the *Patient Needs and Rights* video with the audience, using the questions that are provided in the article. In conclusion, read the last paragraph and encourage all to review carefully the cited articles from *The Watchtower* and *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Explain how each one who has not already done so can use the helpful work sheets in the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert to make personal decisions about blood fractions and medical procedures and then transfer his choices to the DPA card. Those who have already executed a DPA card may want to review their previous choices and, if necessary, execute a new card.

Song 4

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	426	105.7	73.3	43.0	4.5
Pios.	108,631	67.5	42.0	19.9	1.9
Aux. Pios.	47,562	50.3	35.1	11.8	1.0
Pubs.	888,144	10.1	8.4	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	1,044,763			Baptized:	2,092

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"Bear Thorough Witness to the Good News"

[1] In a world where good news is scarce, we have the privilege "to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God." (Acts 20:24) This includes letting people know that "the last days" will soon give way to Jehovah's righteous new world, where "the former things [will] have passed away." (2 Tim. 3: 1-5; Rev. 21:4) At that time there will be no more sickness. (Isa. 33:24) Deceased loved ones will come out of the memorial tombs and be reunited with family and friends. (John 5:28, 29) The whole earth will be made into a beautiful paradise. (Isa. 65:21-23) This is just a sampling of the good news we have to share!

[2] The months of March, April, and May will provide excellent opportunities to declare such good news. During these months the weather and longer daylight hours in many parts of the world are favorable for spending more time in the ministry. In addition, the most important occasion of the year, the Memorial, will be observed around the world after sundown on Saturday, March 22. Now is the time to begin making preparations to increase our activity.

[3] **Auxiliary Pioneer:** Could you arrange your schedule to auxiliary pioneer for one, two, or all three months? Why not take some time during your next family study to consider this matter? With good cooperation, one or more members of the family may be able to auxiliary pioneer. (Prov. 15: 22) Make this a matter of prayer, and see how Jehovah blesses your efforts. (Prov. 16:3) Even if no one in the family can auxiliary pioneer, all family members can set specific goals to increase their share in the ministry while working along with those who are able to pioneer.

Who May Be Included Among Those Able to Auxiliary Pioneer?

- Families
- Those who work full-time
- The elderly and infirm
- Those in school

[4] If you have a full-time job, a good schedule may enable you to auxiliary pioneer. Perhaps you can use part of your lunch break to preach. Or you can obtain a personal territory near your home or place of employment and share in the ministry for an hour or so before or after work. You may be able to make additional time in your schedule by moving nonessential activities to another month and by spending full days in the ministry on the weekends. Some have been able to take a day or two of vacation time to spend in field service.

[5] If you are elderly or infirm or have limited energy, you may be able to auxiliary pioneer by spending a little time each day in the ministry. Ask Jehovah to supply you with "power beyond what is normal." (2 Cor. 4:7) One sister

1. What good news do we have to share?
2. Why does the Memorial season provide excellent opportunities to bear witness to the good news?
3. What will help us to increase our activity as families?
4. How could we schedule our affairs to auxiliary pioneer if we have a full-time job?
5. How might you assist the elderly or infirm to auxiliary pioneer?

was able to auxiliary pioneer at the age of 106! With the assistance of her Christian relatives and others in the congregation, she preached from house to house, made return visits, went on Bible studies, and shared in other features of the ministry. She assisted in starting Bible studies with ten people. "As I think about the wonderful privilege I had to serve as an auxiliary pioneer," she says, "my heart swells with love and appreciation for Jehovah, his Son, and His loving organization. I truly want to say 'thank you, Jehovah!'"

[6] If you are a baptized youth still in school, you too may be able to enroll as an auxiliary pioneer. Like those who work full-time, you will probably utilize primarily the weekends for your schedule for the ministry. Perhaps you can also go out for an hour or so after school on some days. Is there a school holiday that you can use for sharing in the ministry? If you would like to auxiliary pioneer, talk to your parents about it.

When Distributing Memorial Invitations:

- Be brief; speak with enthusiasm
- Make note of interest and call back
- Offer magazines on the weekends

[7] **Build Enthusiasm:** The elders can do much to build the congregation's enthusiasm by their example. (1 Pet. 5:2, 3) They may determine to schedule additional meetings for field service for those who will be sharing in the ministry early in the morning, after school, or after work. The service overseer should make sure that qualified publishers are assigned to take the lead and that there is sufficient territory as well as magazines and literature on hand for these months of special activity.

[8] In one congregation, the elders began encouraging auxiliary pioneering several months in advance. They kept the congregation informed each week regarding how many publishers were approved to auxiliary pioneer. This assured those desiring to increase their share in the ministry that they would have good support. Additional meetings for field service were arranged for the early morning and the evening. The result was that 53 publishers auxiliary pioneered in April, almost half of the congregation!

[9] **Help Others Preach:** When new ones and youths qualify to begin publishing, they may be invited to work in field service with experienced publishers. Such an opportunity may come during the Memorial season when many in the congregation will be increasing their activity. Do you have a progressive Bible student who has brought his life into harmony with Jehovah's righteous standards? Do you have well-behaved children who are making good progress but who are not yet publishers? If such ones have expressed a desire to become unbaptized publishers and you feel that they qualify, then let one of the elders know. The presiding overseer will arrange for two elders to discuss the matter with you and your child or student.

6. How is it possible for baptized youths still in school to auxiliary pioneer?

7. What may the elders do to build enthusiasm for the ministry during the Memorial season?

8. What do we learn from the experience of one congregation?

9. Why is the Memorial season an excellent time, for those who qualify, to begin publishing the good news?

[10] The coming months would also be an excellent time for those who have become inactive to resume their activity with the congregation. Congregation Book Study overseers and other elders should make a concerted effort to visit such ones and extend a warm personal invitation to work with them in the ministry. If they have been inactive for a long time, two elders should first speak with them to determine if they qualify.—*km* 11/00 p. 3.

[11] **Prepare for the Memorial:** The ransom is the greatest expression of "the undeserved kindness of God." (Acts 20:24) Millions of appreciative people around the world will gather on Saturday, March 22, after sundown, to observe the Memorial of Christ's death. We want to invite and help all honesthearted ones to attend this important occasion that bears witness to Jehovah's undeserved kindness toward mankind.

[12] Make a list of those you want to invite. No doubt your list will include relatives, neighbors, acquaintances from work or school, past and present Bible students, and all others whom you visit on a regular basis. If some you invite have questions about the Memorial, you may find it helpful to use the appendix article regarding the Lord's Evening Meal on pages 206-8 of the *Bible Teach* book. This may even open the way for a Bible study, since it will give you an opportunity to introduce the publication we use to conduct Bible studies.

10. What can the elders do to assist those who are inactive?

11. What is the greatest expression of "the undeserved kindness of God?"

12. Whom should we invite to the Memorial?

[13] One sister made a list of 48 families to invite. As she invited them, she crossed off their names and wrote down the date she invited them. How happy she was that 26 people she invited came to the Memorial! A brother who owns a store invited an employee who was formerly a priest. The man attended and afterward exclaimed, "I learned more about the Bible in one hour than I did in the 30 years I spent in the Catholic Church." Soon after the Memorial, he accepted a study in the *Bible Teach* book.

[14] **Campaign:** Beginning on Saturday, March 1, and continuing to March 22, a special invitation to the Memorial will be distributed earth wide. All will want to have a full share in this important campaign. It is better to give the householder an invitation personally than to leave one at the door. However, if you have a large territory, the elders may determine that invitations can be left discreetly at not-at-homes. On the weekends we will also be offering the current magazines.

[15] Since we have a limited time to distribute the invitations, it is best to have a brief presentation. Be friendly and enthusiastic. You might say something like this: "We want to make sure that you, your family members, and your friends are invited to an important event being held on March 22. Here is your invitation. The details are printed on the invitation." The householder may have questions. Or he may accept the invitation and even express that he will be present. Make note of the interest shown, and arrange to call back.

13. How did Jehovah bless the efforts of two publishers who made it a point to invite others to the Memorial?

14. What earth-wide campaign will begin on March 1?

15. How may we present the Memorial invitation?

[16] Last year a soldier found the invitation to the Memorial at his door. He decided to attend but had to get permission from his sergeant. When he showed the invitation to the sergeant, the sergeant became quiet and then said that his parents are Witnesses and that he used to attend meetings with them. Not only did he give permission for the soldier to attend but the sergeant accompanied him to the Memorial!

[17] **Manifest Appreciation:** As the 2008 Memorial season approaches, may each one of us reflect on the undeserved kindness of Jehovah in our behalf. The apostle Paul wrote: "We also entreat you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose." (2 Cor. 6:1) How do we demonstrate that we have not missed the purpose of God's undeserved kindness? Paul wrote: "But in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers." (2 Cor. 6:4) Therefore, we demonstrate our appreciation for Jehovah's gift by our good conduct and zealous preaching of the good news. This Memorial season we will have an excellent opportunity to increase our activity, bearing thorough witness to the good news.

16. What experience illustrates the value of the campaign to invite people in the territory to the Memorial?

17. How do we demonstrate that we have not missed the purpose of God's undeserved kindness?

Are You Putting It Off?

Putting what off? Filling out the DPA (durable power of attorney) card that is provided for baptized Witnesses. Since "you do not know what your life will be tomorrow," it is crucial that you decide in advance and indicate in writing what treatments and procedures you would accept in a medical emergency. (Jas. 4:14; Acts 15: 28, 29) To help you, the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* has been produced. View it, and then prayerfully review what you learned with the help of the questions set out below.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) Why are some in the medical community reevaluating the use of blood transfusions? **(2)** Give three examples of complex surgeries that have been performed without blood transfusions. **(3)** How many physicians and surgeons worldwide have indicated their willingness to treat patients without blood transfusions? Why are they willing to do so? **(4)** What have recent hospital studies revealed about blood use? **(5)** What are the medical risks associated with blood transfusions? **(6)** What conclusion have many experts reached regarding the benefits of transfusion alternatives? **(7)** What causes anemia? How tolerable is it in humans? What can be done to compensate for it? **(8)** How can red-cell production be stimulated in a patient's body? **(9)** What techniques are being used to minimize blood loss during surgery? **(10)** Can transfusion alternatives work for young children or for people involved in life-threatening emergencies? **(11)** What is one of the primary ethical principles of good medical care? **(12)** Why is it important for Christians to make nonblood treatment choices in advance? How can we do this?

Acceptance of some of the treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you taken a clear position on which medical treatments and procedures you are willing to accept for yourself and your children? For a more complete discussion of these matters, see "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower* and the insert "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?" in the November 2006 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Your selected health-care agents and any non-Witness family members should be fully informed of your decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** *Keep on the Watch!* Congregations that do not have a supply of such brochures may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1991 with the exception of *Creation, Mankind's Search for God,* and *Young People Ask.* **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. A special effort will be made to visit newly interested ones who attended the Memorial or the special public talk but who are not actively associated with the congregation. The purpose of such visits should be to start a home Bible study with those who have not yet accepted one.

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 2, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Where Can You Get Help in Times of Distress?"

■ Congregations should make appropriate arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Saturday, March 22, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Each congregation should try to hold its own Memorial observance. However, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from some association after the Memorial. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ Congregation secretaries should make sure that they have a pioneer appointment letter (S-202) for each regular pioneer in the congregation. If they do not, please inform the branch office in writing.

■ Beginning the week of August 4, 2008, we will study *Live With Jehovah's Day in Mind* at the Congregation Book Study.

■ For those who wish to make donations to the worldwide work electronically, a set of instructions is available to explain this arrangement. For further information, call (718) 560-5000 or write to Watchtower, Attn: Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men under the age of 26 who are (1) citizens and have reached 18 years of age or (2) noncitizens who move to the United States must register within 30 days. From the time a man registers until he turns 26, he must notify Selective Service within ten days of any change of address. Compliance with this law is a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders should remind those to whom this applies or will soon apply of their duty to register.

■ A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

QUESTION BOX

■ What two publications should be studied with interested ones?

The *Bible Teach* book is our main tool for starting and conducting Bible studies. While there is no objection if another publication, such as an appropriate tract, is used to start a study, efforts should be made to switch to the *Bible Teach* book as soon as possible. Exceptional results have been obtained by using the *Bible Teach* book to start studies.

Once the *Bible Teach* book has been completed and the student is making progress, the *Worship God* book should then be studied. (Col. 2:7) Page 2 explains that book's purpose: "The Bible urges all who love God to 'grasp mentally . . . [the] height and depth' of his precious truths. (Ephesians 3:18) To that end, this book has been prepared. We hope that it will help you to grow spiritually and to be better equipped to walk the narrow road leading to life in God's righteous new world."

If the student qualifies for baptism before completing both books, the study should continue until the second book is finished. Even though the student is baptized, the conductor may count the time, the return visit, and the Bible study. A publisher who accompanies the conductor and participates may also count the time.

"Let Your Utterance Be Always . . . Seasoned With Salt"

[1] "Let your utterance be always with graciousness, seasoned with salt, so as to know how you ought to give an answer to each one." (Col. 4:6) Seasoning our utterances with salt means choosing correct words and speaking in a manner that will make our comments palatable to the hearer. Doing so while sharing in the ministry is very important.

[2] **Jesus' Example:** While resting near a well, Jesus took the initiative to speak to a Samaritan woman who approached to get water. Several times during the conversation, she raised points reflecting the long-standing feud between the Jews and the Samaritans. She also expressed her belief that the Samaritans descended from Jacob, though the Jews felt strongly that Samaritans descended from foreigners. Rather than taking exception to her comments, Jesus kept the conversation positive. As a result, he was able to give a witness that benefited her and the men of the city.—John 4:7-15, 39.

[3] As we preach we should keep in mind our objective—to "declare good news of good things." (Rom. 10:15) We want to share with the householder an appealing and upbuilding thought from the Bible, not give him the impression that we are attacking his personal beliefs. If he expresses a wrong viewpoint, our reply need not challenge him. Is there something in his comment that we can agree with or use as a basis for genuine commendation? Perhaps we could introduce a scripture by saying, "Have you ever considered this as a possibility?"

[4] What if the householder is abusive or it is apparent that he just wants to argue? We should continue to demonstrate gentleness and mildness in our bearing and words. (2 Tim. 2:24, 25) If the individual does not appreciate the Kingdom message, it is best to excuse ourselves tactfully. —Matt. 7:6; 10:11-14.

[5] **Good Results:** When a sister tried to witness to her neighbor, the woman erupted angrily, using profanity. In a kind manner, our sister said: "I'm sorry you feel that way. Please, have a good day." Two weeks later, the woman knocked on the sister's door, apologized for her conduct, and expressed a willingness to listen to what the sister had to say. A gracious reply often gets good results!—Prov. 15:1; 25:15.

[6] Endeavor to use seasoned speech when declaring the good news. Even if the householder is unreceptive, he may be more willing to listen the next time Jehovah's Witnesses call at his door.

1. What does it mean to 'season our utterances with salt'?
2. How was Jesus able to witness to a Samaritan woman?
3. How may we follow Jesus' example when we are in the ministry?
4. What should we do if the householder is abusive?
5. How did one sister experience good results from replying with graciousness?
6. Why is it important for us to use seasoned speech in the ministry?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Jan. 1

"Would you agree with what is said here? [Read James 3:2.] This article gives some practical suggestions from the Bible to help us to avoid hurting family members with our speech." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

Awake!® — Jan.

"Every marriage has challenges. Where do you think couples can go for reliable advice? [Allow for response.] Note this practical direction. [Read Ephesians 5:22, 25.] This article explains what it means for a wife to be in subjection to her husband." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Feb. 1

"With all the problems we have today, do you think it is possible to obtain real peace of mind? [Allow for response.] Considering the Bible's hope for the future has helped many. [Read one of the quoted or cited scriptures found in the article you will feature.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about where we came from, the purpose of life, and what the future holds."

Awake!® — Feb.

"Because of the upsurge in crime, many people feel insecure. Do you think that things will ever improve? [Allow for response.] Notice an interesting Bible prophecy. [Read Psalm 37:10.] This magazine discusses the underlying cause of crime and the Bible's solution to this problem."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2008 For United States of America *km08* 02-E Us Vol. 51, No. 2

Memorial Reminders

The elders should give attention to the following matters in preparing for the Memorial:

- Make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15.
- Plates, wine cups or wineglasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the entryway, in the lobby, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.
- If another meeting place is used, ensure that there will be a proper sound system so that all in attendance will be able to hear the speaker.

Remembering the Ransom With Appreciation

[1] In obedience to Jesus' command, Christians around the world will meet after sundown on Saturday, March 22, 2008, to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ. (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26) We are moved to do so out of deep appreciation for all that was accomplished on that date 1,975 years ago. By maintaining perfect integrity through a painful death on a torture stake, Jesus sanctified his Father's name, providing the ultimate answer to Satan's taunts.—Job 1:11; Prov. 27:11.

[2] Jesus' shed blood validated the new covenant, enabling imperfect humans to be adopted as God's sons with the prospect of ruling with Christ in his heavenly Kingdom. (Jer. 31:31-34; Mark 14:24) Furthermore, the depth of God's love for mankind was clearly manifested in the giving of his dearly loved Son in sacrifice, as Jesus himself had explained to Nicodemus.—John 3:16.

[3] **Invite Others:** The January issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* suggested making a list of acquaintances and extending personal invitations. Have you started inviting those on your list? Are you making arrangements to share fully in the campaign that will begin on March 1 to invite people to the Memorial? Those attending will hear Scriptural information that can build faith in the ransom, which in turn leads to everlasting life. —Rom. 10:17.

1, 2. What reasons do we have to remember the ransom with appreciation?

3. How will those attending the Memorial benefit?

[4] All who are able should plan to arrive early to extend a warm welcome to those who respond to the special invitation. The large Memorial attendance makes it vital for us to be particularly attentive to the new ones as well as to others who attend meetings from time to time.

[5] **Prepare Your Heart:** *Examining the Scriptures Daily —2008* and the *2008 Calendar* contain a schedule for the special Memorial Bible reading beginning on March 17. Considering the important events that occurred during the final days of Jesus' earthly life will help you to prepare your heart for the Memorial observance. (Ezra 7:10) Prayerfully meditating on these Bible accounts will deepen your appreciation for the love of Jehovah and his Son in providing the ransom. —Ps. 143:5.

[6] As the Memorial approaches, may we carefully prepare ourselves and others for this important occasion. Remembering the ransom with appreciation will strengthen our relationship with Jehovah and his Son. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15) It will also move us to imitate them in showing self-sacrificing love for others.—1 John 4:11.

4. Why should we arrive early for the Memorial?

5. How may you prepare your heart for this occasion?

6. How will building appreciation for the ransom affect us?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 11

Song 168

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!*

15 min: Can You Serve Where the Need Is Greater? Talk and audience discussion based on the July 15, 2003, *Watchtower*, page 20. Include comments on the *Organized* book, page 111, paragraph 1, to page 112, paragraph 1. Briefly interview any who have moved where the need is greater. What challenges did they encounter, and how did they overcome them? What blessings did they enjoy?

20 min: Help New Ones to Progress as Ministers. Following an introduction of less than one minute, conduct a question-and-answer discussion of the December 1, 2005, *Watchtower*, page 31, using the study questions that are provided. After discussing paragraph 18, have a demonstration showing a householder raising an objection to a new publisher who is working with an experienced publisher. The new publisher's response is not effective, and the householder ends the conversation. After leaving the door, the experienced publisher warmly commends the newer one for his effort and then shows him how he might use the *Reasoning* book to reply to that potential conversation stopper in the future.

Song 50

Week Starting February 18

Song 17

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "A Testimony to Faith!"* To be handled by the service overseer. Conclude with a positive review of what the congregation has accomplished during the past service year.

Song 194

Week Starting February 25

Song 81

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Demonstrate how to use the Memorial invitation to invite a family member or a neighbor.

20 min: "Remembering the Ransom With Appreciation."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Current Magazines. Audience discussion. After giving a brief overview of the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!* ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to mention specific points in articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? Using the suggestions, demonstrate how to offer the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!*

Song 119

Week Starting March 3

Song 223

10 min: Local announcements. Review main points from the box "Memorial Reminders."

20 min: Can You Start a Bible Study in March? Audience discussion. During March we will offer the *Bible Teach* book with the goal of starting Bible studies. Review some of the book's outstanding features. Discuss how it may be presented when returning to visit someone who showed interest at the time we left him a Memorial invitation, when returning on a magazine placement, and when offering it in the door-to-door ministry after March 22. (See *km* 8/07 p. 3; *km* 3/06 p. 1, par. 3; *km* 1/06 pp. 3-6.) Have one or two presentations demonstrated.

15 min: Use the Bible When Answering Questions. Talk and audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 143-4. Include a brief demonstration of a publisher being asked a question commonly heard in the local territory and then using the Bible to give an answer.

Song 145

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	425	104.0	68.9	41.7	4.6
Pios.	110,681	67.9	40.4	20.4	2.0
Aux. Pios.	38,220	50.5	34.6	12.6	1.0
Pubs.	899,266	9.8	8.0	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,048,592			Baptized:	2,374

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2007 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLDWIDE

Country or Territory	Population	2007 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, 1 Publisher to	2007 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2006	2006 Av. Pubs.	2007 No. Bptzd.	Av. Aux. Pio. Pubs.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
Albania	3,150,000	3,875	813	3,799	7	3,566	288	398	832	68	1,487,789	5,235	11,121
American Samoa	57,663	218	265	206	4	199	3	11	21	2	44,711	278	729
Andorra	82,392	178	463	159	3	155	5	6	8	2	26,603	81	334
Angola	13,500,000	65,705	205	63,611	7	59,310	5,095	2,461	5,332	905	14,792,776	191,971	254,789
Anguilla	13,677	50	274	45	29	35		2	6	2	11,859	64	236
Antigua	75,741	454	167	438	3	426	12	21	34	5	88,664	517	1,306
Argentina	36,260,130	134,838	269	131,416	2	128,672	6,065	7,917	11,592	1,863	27,956,513	98,761	292,321
Armenia	3,009,000	9,618	313	9,473	4	9,067	706	898	1,391	89	2,855,267	7,790	23,977
Aruba	103,908	755	138	743	2	732	39	29	38	10	128,338	720	2,507
Australia	21,065,592	63,471	332	62,022	2	60,692	1,622	2,409	3,565	779	10,255,750	22,017	115,170
Austria	8,316,000	20,679	402	20,524	1	20,328	522	705	1,039	299	3,421,604	10,517	34,321
Azerbaijan	8,406,000	670	12,546	608	12	543	29	57	116	6	214,874	1,088	1,523
Azores	259,703	648	401	635	3	618	16	24	55	15	130,560	663	1,565
Bahamas	304,913	1,588	192	1,489	2	1,466	42	73	129	30	311,933	1,599	3,935
Bangladesh	150,448,339	112	1,343,289	107	6	101		7	14	3	26,774	126	395
Barbados	270,000	2,482	109	2,429	3	2,366	67	122	131	30	408,789	1,875	5,660
Belarus	9,742,000	4,283	2,275	4,145	6	3,897	262	350	549	46	1,162,809	3,212	8,937
Belgium	10,512,534	25,096	419	23,701	1	23,524	526	761	960	369	3,488,517	8,463	44,151
Belize	249,385	1,852	135	1,760	7	1,650	62	95	230	48	450,884	2,353	7,949
Benin	6,769,914	9,332	725	8,633	5	8,229	533	559	1,005	154	2,389,668	18,838	38,589
Bermuda	66,163	450	147	438	1	435	12	11	61	5	103,668	295	961
Bolivia	9,427,219	18,628	506	17,549	2	17,135	879	1,372	1,995	218	4,799,594	23,427	62,902
Bonaire	14,438	82	176	70	1	69	2	3	5	1	14,748	113	297
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3,832,301	1,164	3,292	1,149	3	1,114	55	111	207	16	382,825	671	2,230
Botswana	1,680,863	1,719	978	1,621	8	1,497	96	82	125	38	350,229	2,375	5,199
Brazil	189,404,603	679,211	279	649,772	4	624,140	36,784	28,348	49,115	10,251	127,169,286	736,714	1,697,318
Britain	58,717,435	131,877	445	125,808	3	122,412	3,383	4,564	8,097	1,514	20,277,208	52,032	222,545
Bulgaria	7,679,290	1,630	4,711	1,597	4	1,537	80	84	250	24	463,584	1,529	3,860
Burkina Faso	14,326,203	1,309	10,944	1,225	5	1,166	69	61	135	31	343,444	2,126	4,038
Burundi	8,194,000	7,457	1,099	6,898	11	6,207	651	484	858	128	2,266,690	17,486	37,471
Cambodia	13,995,904	276	50,710	248	22	204	17	18	107	7	125,492	656	1,305
Cameroon	17,120,000	32,314	530	31,450	3	30,481	1,793	1,248	2,186	554	6,462,856	48,868	94,589
Canada	32,852,849	111,963	293	108,974	1	107,618	2,548	4,984	8,128	1,328	20,181,628	39,445	184,446
Cape Verde	423,613	1,744	243	1,698	5	1,620	108	95	225	33	467,424	3,705	8,720
Cayman Islands	46,600	239	195	204	10	186	9	13	14	3	40,068	217	675
Central Afr. Rep.	4,200,000	2,422	1,734	2,353	-1	2,374	131	119	272	53	631,593	5,061	18,644
Chad	9,000,000	618	14,563	564	-3	584	17	24	66	18	155,596	898	6,218
Chile	16,598,074	72,428	229	66,393	2	64,994	2,865	4,635	6,703	791	14,967,496	56,443	167,582
Chuuk	66,100	59	1,120	55	-5	58	1	3	19	3	27,388	201	530
Colombia	43,975,968	133,421	330	129,634	4	124,398	7,632	5,846	12,475	1,969	27,658,653	169,023	427,706
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	59,800,000	144,145	415	135,367	2	132,416	8,689	4,510	10,433	2,953	28,507,177	307,468	884,933
Congo, Rep. of	3,811,000	5,406	705	4,822	4	4,621	349	240	288	68	1,195,998	17,379	26,182
Cook Islands	21,750	166	131	153	-8	166	5	5	22	2	37,528	184	528
Costa Rica	4,325,540	22,505	192	21,679	5	20,661	1,133	1,012	1,378	315	4,029,963	23,594	58,872
Côte d'Ivoire	20,581,770	7,731	2,662	7,438	6	7,034	522	529	807	170	2,197,528	19,261	31,877
Croatia	4,437,460	5,510	805	5,433	1	5,386	145	284	391	71	1,129,701	2,334	10,137
Cuba	11,217,100	89,666	125	88,918	1	88,096	3,620	5,233	6,683	1,268	16,563,513	134,235	214,681
Curaçao	137,094	1,651	83	1,620	6	1,522	67	57	98	22	280,695	1,917	4,304
Cyprus	778,700	2,131	365	2,070	5	1,965	96	118	157	26	411,213	1,103	4,004

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Czech Rep.	10,306,700	15,662	658	15,486	1	15,384	358	601	683	231	2,374,545	6,370	27,998
Denmark	5,447,084	14,368	379	14,154	0	14,178	288	464	677	204	2,098,100	4,367	21,734
Dominica	71,794	379	189	352	5	336	11	21	34	8	89,468	509	1,106
Dominican Rep.	9,400,000	28,218	333	27,466	5	26,122	1,546	1,805	3,797	376	7,668,590	49,795	114,870
East Timor	925,000	95	9,737	83	14	73	6	4	26	2	36,473	142	343
Ecuador	13,711,758	59,547	230	57,569	8	53,350	3,995	3,462	7,165	731	14,734,731	95,168	222,406
El Salvador	7,104,999	32,714	217	31,360	5	29,950	1,773	1,286	1,804	581	5,833,117	33,821	86,979
Equatorial Guinea	610,000	1,027	594	927	1	921	79	52	137	16	255,542	2,517	4,270
Estonia	1,344,684	4,248	317	4,172	1	4,125	163	203	424	51	840,814	2,611	7,666
Ethiopia	74,000,000	8,058	9,183	7,874	5	7,509	537	644	1,208	157	2,513,552	5,493	26,419
Faeroe Islands	48,350	98	493	96	8	89	3	5	22	4	28,236	61	145
Falkland Islands	3,105	4	776	4	0	4		1		1	673	3	17
Fiji	825,478	2,088	395	2,003	3	1,946	128	120	196	39	451,950	2,342	8,409
Finland	5,276,955	19,164	275	19,042	1	18,858	332	709	1,498	299	2,991,849	9,549	27,521
France	61,533,300	121,871	505	116,169	2	114,439	2,736	5,986	6,759	1,514	21,309,866	44,348	205,808
French Guiana	210,000	1,898	111	1,804	4	1,737	101	115	126	32	430,626	3,448	6,631
Gabon	1,400,000	3,119	449	2,974	9	2,739	232	221	240	34	805,605	7,039	9,805
Gambia	1,688,359	198	8,527	184	5	175	14	9	27	3	55,665	344	536
Georgia	4,433,000	16,686	266	16,190	5	15,373	1,058	894	2,143	173	3,775,503	8,537	34,555
Germany	82,314,906	165,348	498	163,065	1	161,861	4,067	5,164	8,188	2,224	26,106,238	73,663	276,381
Ghana	22,036,237	85,416	258	82,049	6	77,168	4,692	2,937	4,484	1,293	16,394,568	200,393	284,245
Gibraltar	27,967	92	304	89	-4	93	3	3	9	2	17,796	26	156
Greece	10,539,771	28,243	373	28,125	1	27,914	644	1,092	2,616	374	5,159,563	10,480	45,884
Greenland	56,901	130	438	124	10	113	1	4	29	6	33,741	99	300
Grenada	102,000	596	171	557	2	548	16	22	44	9	110,254	557	1,425
Guadeloupe	440,000	8,295	53	8,035	3	7,772	251	382	359	122	1,396,819	9,484	20,573
Guam	154,805	649	239	630	2	616	19	49	89	8	169,464	833	1,598
Guatemala	13,344,770	25,711	519	24,907	6	23,537	1,414	1,043	1,959	382	5,104,541	26,079	75,216
Guinea	9,947,814	671	14,825	625	-4	651	27	38	84	18	198,924	1,415	2,927
Guinea-Bissau	1,472,780	124	11,877	108	8	100	10	5	33	4	56,641	376	690
Guyana	777,648	2,378	327	2,275	5	2,177	127	114	179	40	445,570	2,907	10,544
Haiti	8,373,750	14,772	567	13,765	5	13,172	1,053	828	1,364	217	3,352,036	25,717	78,621
Hawaii	1,285,498	8,164	157	7,903	3	7,706	266	418	940	94	1,791,210	5,397	18,786
Honduras	8,083,625	16,843	480	16,085	5	15,385	794	766	1,653	241	3,916,947	22,654	54,818
Hong Kong	6,910,000	4,789	1,443	4,703	2	4,602	279	303	654	53	1,266,536	5,492	8,638
Hungary	10,055,000	22,832	440	21,652	3	21,075	881	954	1,154	262	3,853,082	12,189	44,954
Iceland	311,396	324	961	307	6	289	14	10	31	5	55,828	220	600
India	1,114,058,000	28,373	39,265	26,434	5	25,256	967	1,334	1,620	415	4,632,861	22,669	73,193
Indonesia	223,000,000	20,658	10,795	19,573	5	18,725	1,052	978	1,361	395	4,349,138	23,560	51,027
Ireland	5,975,673	5,512	1,084	5,341	6	5,056	124	213	502	112	1,055,053	2,453	10,329
Israel	11,134,930	1,296	8,592	1,264	5	1,202	64	60	76	18	241,273	840	2,523
Italy	59,131,287	238,442	248	236,113	1	233,231	5,614	12,411	23,535	3,077	51,102,293	103,704	436,670
Jamaica	2,780,132	11,641	239	11,132	3	10,761	448	555	859	194	2,030,547	12,334	37,971
Japan	127,756,815	218,691	584	217,929	0	217,181	4,308	18,728	58,840	3,177	78,588,916	164,674	331,172
Kazakhstan	15,314,000	15,681	977	15,292	5	14,595	1,205	1,186	1,889	170	3,903,738	12,258	32,160
Kenya	34,000,000	22,203	1,531	20,876	5	19,908	1,605	981	2,710	493	5,864,216	34,273	57,154
Kiribati	92,424	82	1,127	72	14	63	8	10	12	1	30,050	178	295
Korea, Rep. of	48,456,000	94,862	511	94,066	2	92,541	3,055	8,658	33,275	1,402	41,636,251	62,129	142,222
Kosovo	2,350,000	155	15,161	152	6	144	8	10	36	4	58,718	232	536
Kosrae	9,922	30	331	29	-3	30		1	5	1	7,945	73	104
Kyrgyzstan	5,259,000	4,287	1,227	4,186	7	3,923	190	388	732	55	1,243,943	4,757	9,693
Latvia	2,273,600	2,389	952	2,334	0	2,338	110	146	355	39	653,133	2,017	4,148
Lebanon	3,925,502	3,613	1,086	3,542	1	3,514	115	140	122	66	570,722	1,794	6,621
Lesotho	1,880,661	3,378	557	3,203	3	3,101	223	154	274	70	719,882	4,274	9,184
Liberia	3,390,685	5,242	647	4,780	6	4,527	325	282	555	88	1,493,636	16,055	47,182

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Liechtenstein	35,174	49	718	45	-2	46		1	2	1	4,797	19	84
Lithuania	3,425,000	3,060	1,119	2,867	2	2,810	151	176	340	40	715,334	2,308	5,676
Luxembourg	562,263	1,890	297	1,863	3	1,816	56	78	94	33	319,957	906	3,726
Macao	503,000	170	2,994	170	13	150	10	12	29	2	57,009	173	388
Macedonia	2,032,017	1,278	1,590	1,209	7	1,134	84	108	132	18	356,048	1,058	3,677
Madagascar	17,970,940	18,748	959	18,181	11	16,448	1,740	913	2,523	389	5,005,075	42,985	101,165
Madeira	262,956	1,156	227	1,124	1	1,109	50	56	90	17	223,566	788	2,156
Malawi	12,767,761	68,611	186	66,992	4	64,183	5,996	3,463	5,487	1,115	13,888,804	69,197	263,869
Malaysia	28,000,000	2,982	9,390	2,863	8	2,646	130	189	483	83	865,120	4,813	7,837
Mali	11,995,402	254	47,226	236	6	222	14	12	43	7	92,498	582	992
Malta	404,039	569	710	548	1	543	12	22	33	7	97,073	249	1,102
Marshall Islands	73,434	203	362	197	0	197		13	25	4	58,387	515	1,345
Martinique	399,000	4,390	91	4,315	3	4,189	137	245	269	56	853,596	4,377	10,013
Mauritius	1,219,220	1,663	733	1,616	5	1,532	67	66	102	26	307,658	1,569	3,776
Mayotte	178,000	93	1,914	77	0	77		6	4	1	17,018	102	143
Mexico	105,338,769	639,320	165	620,473	3	600,348	23,794	20,661	66,321	11,707	129,959,990	742,364	1,918,055
Moldova	4,121,700	19,596	210	19,001	4	18,273	945	871	1,365	238	3,155,498	11,212	40,485
Mongolia	2,951,786	152	19,420	144	18	122	25	17	35	2	63,407	337	665
Montenegro	620,145	205	3,025	200	2	197	9	18	26	4	57,234	139	613
Montserrat	3,000	9	333	8	-11	9				1	850	7	61
Mozambique	20,363,383	43,442	469	41,924	2	40,934	3,095	1,371	4,413	974	8,959,466	54,693	225,538
Myanmar	51,000,000	3,372	15,125	3,220	4	3,108	156	109	285	92	633,015	2,676	7,639
Namibia	2,027,870	1,545	1,313	1,453	15	1,264	123	67	117	28	325,573	1,937	4,390
Nauru	10,600	10	1,060	4	0	4				1	367	4	76
Nepal	28,901,790	873	33,106	821	9	752	94	59	107	11	207,703	1,489	3,880
Netherlands	16,372,715	31,250	524	29,553	1	29,357	665	979	1,079	414	4,180,283	10,098	51,726
Nevis	10,080	55	183	52	8	48		2	2	1	9,463	37	199
New Caledonia	241,331	1,702	142	1,651	3	1,602	63	120	92	23	349,842	2,004	5,395
New Zealand	4,235,554	13,852	306	13,017	2	12,740	401	596	765	170	2,221,216	6,345	26,797
Nicaragua	5,235,000	20,150	260	19,012	5	18,184	1,304	845	1,911	322	4,502,464	31,550	75,924
Niger	11,453,651	265	43,221	249	6	236	13	16	35	7	79,454	395	1,104
Nigeria	140,003,542	302,405	463	273,631	3	264,487	13,799	8,310	26,570	4,928	52,036,355	484,405	648,287
Niue	1,625	29	56	26	0	26	1	2	4	1	6,905	35	93
Norfolk Island	2,114	11	192	10	-9	11		1	2	1	2,490	6	19
Norway	4,704,600	10,363	454	10,078	3	9,769	245	265	486	169	1,361,507	3,678	17,177
Pakistan	164,742,000	921	178,873	834	4	803	55	44	52	18	156,662	940	3,678
Palau	20,461	93	220	89	-4	93	3	14	17	1	31,688	221	334
Panama	3,339,781	12,354	270	11,813	4	11,406	498	572	1,162	245	2,625,039	15,682	40,741
Papua New Guinea	6,286,873	3,613	1,740	3,462	9	3,187	185	195	277	55	735,938	4,008	24,322
Paraguay	6,588,079	8,212	802	8,098	4	7,803	498	353	975	140	1,890,925	9,216	20,200
Peru	27,621,264	101,703	272	93,300	3	90,212	5,942	5,536	20,242	1,084	29,316,608	148,881	310,443
Philippines	87,000,000	155,286	560	152,290	4	147,122	9,544	6,889	20,674	3,136	30,891,655	130,713	480,173
Pohnpei	35,000	89	393	83	12	74	5	7	7	1	21,123	137	340
Poland	38,125,479	128,235	297	126,967	0	126,827	3,811	4,666	5,822	1,803	16,458,050	44,679	218,539
Portugal	10,120,177	48,878	207	48,093	1	47,551	1,441	2,171	2,434	647	8,368,614	25,297	95,985
Puerto Rico	3,944,259	24,976	158	24,783	2	24,385	779	951	2,234	319	4,707,782	14,128	57,852
Réunion	785,200	2,729	288	2,660	2	2,596	108	155	107	33	484,243	1,874	5,914
Rodrigues	37,230	37	1,006	33	10	30		1	4	1	9,022	34	120
Romania	21,565,100	38,544	559	38,230	1	37,956	1,353	1,294	2,600	544	6,338,219	19,362	81,637
Rota	2,899	10	290	8	-20	10		1	3	1	4,192	22	30
Russia	143,221,000	150,056	954	146,377	4	140,244	9,121	10,998	19,847	1,663	39,615,248	118,606	286,237
Rwanda	9,290,911	14,597	636	13,939	8	12,935	1,242	1,075	2,293	316	5,332,870	32,135	87,638
Saba	1,600	11	145	7	17	6	1		3	1	2,364	20	36

Country or Territory	Population	2007 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, 1 Publisher to	2007 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2006	2006 Av. Pubs.	2007 No. Bptzd.	Av. Aux. Pio. Pubs.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
St. Eustatius	2,400	20	120	16	14	14	1	1	2	1	4,094	23	59
St. Helena	3,700	124	30	116	-7	125	2	1		3	10,805	61	266
St. Kitts	31,800	190	167	181	6	170	8	10	19	3	48,029	274	630
St. Lucia	156,000	677	230	648	-1	657	19	35	75	10	153,776	899	1,702
St. Maarten	55,000	341	161	329	7	308	23	22	38	5	84,279	422	1,125
St. Pierre & Miquelon	6,316	12	526	11	0	11		1		1	1,963	3	20
St. Vincent	103,000	339	304	309	1	306	12	24	37	7	82,582	405	795
Saipan	71,400	177	403	172	-3	177	13	13	30	2	54,529	298	487
Samoa	214,265	438	489	416	5	397	9	22	54	8	102,737	448	1,492
San Marino	29,615	185	160	181	2	178	8	16	9	2	41,338	83	326
São Tomé & Príncipe	199,579	466	428	447	8	414	36	39	93	10	173,572	1,928	2,111
Senegal	12,521,851	1,043	12,006	1,016	0	1,014	32	51	142	26	314,117	1,704	2,697
Serbia	8,118,146	3,838	2,115	3,768	1	3,720	143	276	408	54	960,708	1,865	8,586
Seychelles	81,755	267	306	258	8	238	18	6	24	4	51,706	285	712
Sierra Leone	6,144,562	1,669	3,682	1,485	6	1,400	100	78	138	36	390,062	3,266	8,534
Slovakia	5,393,637	11,469	470	11,311	-1	11,370	251	277	252	160	1,357,550	2,814	21,094
Slovenia	2,013,597	1,927	1,045	1,911	1	1,887	37	101	156	28	410,356	928	3,134
Solomon Islands	506,041	1,800	281	1,747	0	1,743	96	77	226	43	393,883	1,842	8,326
South Africa	43,997,828	81,501	540	77,655	3	75,304	4,078	2,848	6,712	1,610	15,652,574	87,171	199,361
Spain	44,873,567	109,441	410	102,310	2	100,029	2,132	5,281	8,473	1,401	21,400,279	46,962	181,993
Sri Lanka	19,900,000	4,364	4,560	4,138	4	3,962	258	239	326	78	838,374	4,682	11,726
Sudan	32,000,000	1,550	20,645	1,465	7	1,366	101	64	236	61	431,795	3,010	6,342
Suriname	470,700	2,225	212	2,127	6	2,001	120	125	148	45	433,879	2,898	7,309
Swaziland	1,163,510	2,579	451	2,437	6	2,292	144	107	199	69	544,107	3,065	7,474
Sweden	9,150,508	22,585	405	22,129	1	21,898	481	853	1,451	324	3,342,578	8,442	36,423
Switzerland	7,508,700	18,088	415	17,108	1	16,981	347	490	609	277	2,458,823	7,456	30,805
Tahiti	245,405	1,982	124	1,929	6	1,824	98	106	110	27	396,051	2,187	6,411
Taiwan	23,000,000	6,223	3,696	6,054	7	5,664	431	601	1,388	85	2,290,080	8,981	13,703
Tanzania	39,095,062	14,213	2,751	13,395	4	12,857	945	509	1,641	415	3,339,600	20,168	57,744
Thailand	65,060,000	2,664	24,422	2,572	9	2,363	129	161	457	70	744,477	3,181	6,149
Tinian	2,940	18	163	17	6	16	1	1	3	1	6,506	45	38
Togo	5,304,000	14,693	361	14,021	5	13,363	777	818	1,023	237	3,331,615	36,696	60,916
Tonga	116,921	248	471	222	9	204	10	18	33	5	61,633	303	664
Trinidad & Tobago	1,297,944	8,459	153	8,334	2	8,149	325	557	788	106	1,702,515	9,165	22,565
Turkey	68,000,000	1,909	35,621	1,866	5	1,775	100	100	130	29	390,101	1,001	3,612
Turks & Caicos	21,746	171	127	156	8	145	5	9	14	3	36,077	275	702
Tuvalu	9,561	48	199	41	5	39	3	1	1	1	5,570	32	139
Uganda	28,644,300	4,457	6,427	4,267	7	4,005	454	265	548	103	1,244,081	9,722	16,414
Ukraine	46,490,819	140,197	332	136,670	4	131,709	6,775	8,839	13,341	1,500	30,236,692	86,624	276,126
U.S. of America	298,112,986	1,084,005	275	1,042,528	3	1,010,422	37,243	44,233	102,150	12,494	211,314,864	546,631	2,353,263
Uruguay	3,163,700	11,011	287	10,970	2	10,806	382	358	472	159	1,489,313	7,614	24,032
Vanuatu	221,419	382	580	353	4	338	23	25	38	5	89,528	845	2,374
Venezuela	27,575,374	104,406	264	100,366	4	96,476	6,042	5,562	12,738	1,323	25,065,185	127,229	361,100
Virgin Isls. (Brit.)	23,000	207	111	195	8	180	8	9	30	3	44,333	189	722
Virgin Isls. (U.S.)	109,400	657	167	631	5	600	16	29	84	9	144,754	615	1,800
Wallis & Futuna Isls.	15,489	71	218	67	-1	68	8	5	8	1	18,885	112	241
Yap	11,695	26	450	24	0	24	2	1	11	1	11,360	68	125
Zambia	12,345,751	145,801	85	127,872	3	123,841	9,349	4,387	9,564	2,199	24,709,100	205,748	641,675
Zimbabwe	12,224,988	33,475	365	32,668	7	30,582	2,750	1,529	3,163	905	7,502,152	57,094	83,974
30 Other Lands		15,970		14,611	15.1	12,695	1,203	1,003	3,082	334	5,078,877	19,013	28,107
Grand Total (236 Lands)		6,957,854		6,691,790	3.1	6,491,775	298,304	312,741	678,638	101,376	1,431,761,554	6,561,426	17,672,443

During the 2007 service year, Jehovah's Witnesses spent over $121 million in caring for special pioneers, missionaries, and traveling overseers in their field service assignments.

MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLDWIDE: 9,105

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. A special effort will be made to visit newly interested ones who attended the Memorial or the special public talk but who are not actively associated with the congregation. The purpose of such visits should be to start a home Bible study with those who have not yet accepted one.

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given.

■ The special public talk for the 2008 Memorial season will be entitled "Who Is Qualified to Rule Mankind?" See the related announcement in the October 2007 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire* (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, a new form should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer approved as a volunteer worker, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter. The completed forms in the congregation file should be made available for the circuit overseer's review when he visits the congregation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 25, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 7 through February 25, 2008. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What do we need to do in order to help our audience grasp the meaning of scriptures, and why should this be done? [*be* p. 228 pars. 2-3]
2. Why is it important that we make our presentations informative to our audience, and how can we accomplish this? [*be* p. 230 pars. 3-5, box]
3. In what ways can research make our talks more informative? [*be* p. 231 pars. 1-3]
4. What can we do to make our handling of familiar scriptures more informative? [*be* p. 231 pars. 4-5]
5. Why is it important to reason on the texts we read? [*be* p. 232 pars. 3-4]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What indicates that the book of Matthew was written primarily with a Jewish audience in mind? [*si* p. 176 pars. 6-7]
7. How can we prepare our hearts to receive divine instruction from the platform? (2 Chron. 20:33) [*be* p. 13 par. 4–p. 14 par. 5]
8. What can parents do to train their children to become "wise for salvation"? (2 Tim. 3:15) [*be* p. 16 pars. 3-4]
9. How does Matthew's Gospel highlight the fulfillment of Bible prophecy? [*si* p. 181 par. 32]
10. Whereas Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus as the promised Messiah and King, how does Mark's Gospel describe him? [*si* p. 182 pars. 7-8]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Is giving vent to anger more serious than harboring it? (Matt. 5:21, 22) [*w08* 1/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of Matthew"]
12. How do Christians keep a 'simple eye'? (Matt. 6:22, 23) [*w06* 10/1 p. 29]
13. What point was Jesus making when he asked his disciples: "Did you get the sense of all these things?" (Matt. 13:51, 52) [*w08* 1/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of Matthew"]
14. Why did Jesus usually command those he healed "not to make him manifest"? (Matt. 12:16) [*w87* 5/15 p. 9; *cl* pp. 93-4]
15. What was Jesus' point regarding "the measure" with which one 'measures out'? (Mark 4:24, 25) [*w80* 6/15 p. 12; *gt* chap. 43]

A Testimony to Faith!

[1] The apostles listened intently as Jesus spoke about his presence and the conclusion of the system of things. Disturbing events were to befall mankind—wars, food shortages, earthquakes, pestilence. Next, Jesus said that his followers would be hated, delivered up to tribulation, and killed. False prophets would arise and mislead many. The love of the greater number would cool off.

[2] Against that backdrop, it must have been startling to the apostles when Jesus then said that the good news of God's Kingdom would be preached in all the inhabited earth. (Matt. 24:3-14) Today we see the remarkable fulfillment of that exciting prophecy. Though we live in perilous times, Jehovah's Witnesses zealously proclaim the good news. As the love of the world cools, our love burns ever brighter. Despite being hated by "all the nations," we preach in virtually *every* nation.

[3] How encouraging it is to review the activity of Jehovah's Witnesses during the past service year as shown on the chart on pages 3 through 6! For the 16th year in a row, over one billion hours were spent in the preaching and disciple-making work. What a testimony to faith that is! There were increases of 5.8 percent in the number of pioneers, 3.1 percent in publishers, and 4.4 percent in Bible studies. Baptisms were up 20.1 percent over the last service year. It is thrilling to see that nearly seven million people are faithfully serving Jehovah—more now than at any other time in human history! As you examine the chart, what do you see that especially encourages you?

[4] Though the figures are impressive in themselves, we should never forget that they represent people who have proved their faith. Consider an example. Guillermo grew up in Bolivia. Born in 1935, he worked on a coca plantation from the age of nine. From childhood on, he chewed coca leaves to relieve the misery of doing hard physical labor. He later abused alcohol and smoked cigarettes. As he began to learn about what Jehovah requires of him, Guillermo quit smoking and then stopped abusing alcohol. The biggest challenge was to quit his lifelong practice of chewing coca leaves. He prayed without letup and overcame this habit. His vices behind him, he was baptized. "Now," he says, "I feel clean and very happy."

[5] Jehovah is truly interested in people. It is his desire that all attain to repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9) That is our desire too. May our hearts move us to do all we can to continue to help honesthearted ones come to know and love Jehovah as we do.

1. What disturbing events were foretold by Jesus?
2. Why is it remarkable that the good news is being preached worldwide?
3. What encouraging figures do you see in the worldwide report?
4. What problems did one man overcome while working toward baptism?
5. What is your desire?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Feb. 1

"How do you think families would be affected if they applied this advice? [Read Ephesians 4:31. Then allow for response.] This article gives some practical suggestions from the Bible for managing conflicts and maintaining happiness in marriage." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

Awake!® Feb.

"Some believe that God keeps track of every error we make. Others feel that he forgives all sins, no matter how serious. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Acts 3:19.] This article discusses three steps outlined in the Bible for gaining God's mercy." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® Mar. 1

"I would like to get your opinion on this very familiar text. [Read John 3:16.] Have you ever wondered how the death of one man could result in everlasting life for others? [Allow for response.] This magazine gives a clear, satisfying explanation regarding how we may benefit from Jesus' death."

Awake!® Mar.

"Do you think that all religions are good? [Allow for response.] Note what the Bible says about the worship of some. [Read Mark 7:7.] How can a person know if a religion teaches the truth and not 'commands of men'? Is religious truth even attainable? This magazine answers these questions."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2008 For United States of America km08 03-E Us Vol. 51, No. 3

We Can Give to Jehovah

[1] Did you know that humans are able to give something to God? Abel sacrificed some of his precious livestock to Jehovah, and Noah and Job made similar offerings. (Gen. 4:4; 8:20; Job 1:5) Of course, such offerings did not enrich the Creator in any way, since he already possesses everything. But the sacrifices did demonstrate the deep love those faithful men had for God. Today, we can use our time, energy, and resources in giving Jehovah "a sacrifice of praise."—Heb. 13:15.

[2] **Time:** How commendable it is to 'buy out' time from less important things to share more fully in the ministry! (Eph. 5:15, 16) Perhaps we could adjust our schedule in order to auxiliary pioneer one or more months a year. Maybe we could lengthen the time we usually spend in the ministry. Staying out an extra 30 minutes each week would increase our ministry by at least two hours a month!

[3] **Energy:** Having energy to use in the ministry requires that we avoid recreation and employment that leave us so tired that we cannot give Jehovah our best. We also need to put aside anxieties that could make our heart "bow down," robbing us of energy that we could use in serving God. (Prov. 12:25) Even if we have a legitimate concern, how much better it is to 'throw our burden upon Jehovah'!—Ps. 55:22; Phil. 4:6, 7.

[4] **Resources:** We can also give of our material resources to support the preaching work. Paul encouraged fellow Christians to "set something aside" regularly so as to have something to give to those in need. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2) In a similar way, we may be able to set aside funds to donate for local congregation needs as well as for the worldwide work. Jehovah appreciates what we give from the heart, even if it is just a little.—Luke 21:1-4.

[5] Jehovah has given us much. (Jas. 1:17) We show our appreciation by giving generously of our time, energy, and other resources to serve him. Our doing so pleases Jehovah, "for God loves a cheerful giver."—2 Cor. 9:7.

Building One Another Up While in the Ministry

[1] All of us appreciate receiving an encouraging "word spoken at the right time." (Prov. 25:11) When we work with others in the ministry, how can we make sure that our conversation results in encouragement?

[2] **Upbuilding Conversation:** How upbuilding it is to include spiritual matters in our conversation while engaging in the preaching work! (Ps. 37:30) We could talk about our presentation or relate encouraging field service experiences we recently enjoyed. (Acts 15:3) Did we glean an interesting point from our personal Bible reading, the recent magazines, or a congregation meeting? We might discuss points presented in a public talk we recently heard at the Kingdom Hall.

[3] We may feel disheartened when a householder raises an objection that we are unable to overcome. It would be beneficial for us to take a few minutes after leaving the door to consider with our partner how such a situation might be handled in the future, perhaps by consulting the *Reasoning* book. And if we appreciated something about our partner's presentation, a word of sincere commendation would provide welcome encouragement.

[4] **Take the Initiative:** Are there some in our book study group with whom we have not worked recently? Extending a personal invitation to accompany us in the ministry may result in "an interchange of encouragement." (Rom. 1:12) Regular and auxiliary pioneers appreciate having others to work with, especially in the early morning or late afternoon, when fewer publishers may be sharing in the ministry. We can support the pioneers by making ourselves available. Is there an infirm publisher whose health limits what he is able to do in the ministry? Arranging for such a one to accompany us, perhaps on a Bible study, may be beneficial.—Prov. 27:17.

[5] Commendation and expressions of appreciation are always encouraging, even in small matters. We should have that in mind when working with others in the ministry, since we want to "keep . . . building one another up."—1 Thess. 5:11.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 10

Song 131

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!* along with the Memorial invitation.

20 min: Why Meet Together? Talk and audience discussion based on the May 15, 2007, *Watchtower,* pages 11-13. Invite audience to comment on how attendance at congregation meetings has benefited them and how they have overcome obstacles in order to attend meetings regularly.

15 min: "We Can Give to Jehovah."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 8

Week Starting March 17

Song 144

10 min: Local announcements. Remind audience to bring the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* to the Service Meeting next week and to be prepared to discuss appropriate presentations for the local territory. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Question Box. To be handled by an elder. Read and discuss entire article.

20 min: "How May We Assist Memorial Attenders?"* When considering paragraph 5, briefly demonstrate how a Bible study may be started with a visitor who attended the Memorial.

Song 214

Week Starting March 24

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Current Magazines. Audience discussion. After giving a brief overview of the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to mention specific points in articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? Using presentations suggested for the local territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!*

20 min: We Bring Good News of Something Better. Following an introduction of less than one minute, an elder gives a talk based on the July 1, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 18-19, paragraphs 10-14. Invite the audience to comment on how the Kingdom message gave them comfort and hope when they first heard it.

Song 29

Week Starting March 31

Song 37

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for March.

20 min: Make Good Use of the *2008 Yearbook.* Talk and audience discussion. Discuss "A Letter From the Governing Body," on pages 3-5. Have two or three in the audience relate an experience from the *Yearbook* that has been especially encouraging to them. Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to comment on how they schedule their personal reading of the *Yearbook.* Conclude by encouraging all to read the entire book.

15 min: "Building One Another Up While in the Ministry"*

Song 122

Week Starting April 7

Song 186

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Why Put Off Getting Baptized? Talk by an elder based on the July 1, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 29-30, paragraphs 14-17. Include a brief interview of one or two publishers who were baptized as teenagers. What moved them to take this important step at a young age? How did their baptism help them develop spiritual maturity, which is a protection?

15 min: Have You Tried the Direct Approach? Talk and audience discussion based on the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, page 6. Discuss the sample presentations and how they may be modified to start a Bible study in the *Bible Teach* book. Then have one or two demonstrations. Encourage audience to try at least once during the next week to start a Bible study in the *Bible Teach* book using the direct approach.

Song 225

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	423	104.7	69.4	42.1	4.4
Pios.	110,502	64.5	38.7	19.6	2.0
Aux. Pios.	32,835	49.3	32.9	12.4	1.1
Pubs.	905,220	9.8	8.0	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,048,980			Baptized:	3,388

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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■ Congregations should release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. This will allow publishers to become familiar with the contents before offering the magazines in field service.

■ Someone designated by the presiding overseer should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of December, January, and February. The same person should not be used for consecutive audits. When the audit is complete, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The theme for the 2008 district conventions is "Guided by God's Spirit." The April issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will furnish helpful detailed information for finalizing your personal plans for attending all sessions of this three-day convention. If you need to request time off from your employment in order to be present all three days, do not hesitate to do so.

■ Immediately after the Memorial, the total attendance and number of partakers should be submitted to the branch office using the jw.org Web site. If this is not possible, a letter may be sent. When multiple congregations meet together, only one congregation should submit the total attendance figure.

■ It is important that groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. You may also use the following fax number: (845) 306-0200. At least two weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the Question Box in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.

QUESTION BOX

■ What type of clothing is appropriate when visiting facilities used for Jehovah's service?

Around the world, Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, Bethel homes, and branch facilities stand out as places dedicated to Jehovah's service. They are modest, clean, and well-arranged, reflecting dignity in appearance. The contrast with what is often seen in Satan's system of things is great indeed. Those who visit places used for Jehovah's service should also be recognized as belonging to Jehovah, ones who are doing his will.

As Christians, we "recommend ourselves as God's ministers" in every way, including our appropriate, well-arranged dress and grooming. (2 Cor. 6: 3, 4) We are also expected to maintain proper decorum. At all times our dress and grooming should reflect the decency and dignity that befit servants of Jehovah God. This is especially true when visiting the headquarters facilities in New York as well as the branches around the world.

In discussing the importance of proper dress and grooming, *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will* comments on the need for physical cleanness, modest dress, and good grooming when we engage in the field ministry and attend Christian meetings. Then, on page 138, paragraph 3, it states: "Remember, the name Bethel means 'House of God.' Therefore, our dress, grooming, and conduct should be similar to what is expected of us when attending meetings for worship at the Kingdom Hall." This high standard should be observed by Kingdom publishers visiting Bethel from the local area as well as those from more distant places. In this way, the visitor demonstrates appropriate appreciation and respect. —Ps. 29:2.

Our clothing should identify us as those "professing to reverence God." (1 Tim. 2:10) Appropriate dress and grooming have a positive influence on the way others view the true worship of Jehovah. However, it has been noted that when visiting facilities used for Jehovah's service, a few brothers and sisters tend to be extremely casual, sloppy, or revealing in their dress. Such attire is not appropriate for Christians at any time. In this matter, as in all other aspects of our Christian life, we desire to maintain the high standards that distinguish God's people from the world, doing all things for God's glory.—Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 10:31.

So when visiting the headquarters and branch in New York State or other branch facilities, whether on a planned visit or while on vacation in tourist areas, ask yourself: 'Does my dress and grooming reflect the modesty, the cleanliness, and the dignity of the place I will be visiting? Does it reflect well on the God that I worship? Would others be distracted or offended by my appearance?' By our dress and grooming, may we always "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things"!—Titus 2:10.

How May We Assist Memorial Attenders?

[1] On March 22, 2008, millions of people around the world will receive a powerful witness. Those attending the Memorial will hear about Jehovah's great love in providing a ransom for mankind. (John 3:16) They will learn about the Kingdom and how Jehovah will use it to accomplish his will for all the earth. (Matt. 6:9, 10) They will see firsthand the love and unity of God's people and experience our warm hospitality.—Ps. 133:1.

[2] **Bible Students:** Some in attendance will be those who have just started studying the Bible with us. Introduce them to the brothers and sisters. Explain the weekly meetings, and give them a brief tour of the Kingdom Hall. During the talk, the speaker will encourage such ones to continue making spiritual progress. You can use his comments as a basis to encourage your students.

[3] **Inactive:** Some attending will be inactive publishers. Take the initiative to greet them warmly. Avoid asking personal questions or making statements that may cause embarrassment. Shortly after the Memorial, the elders should visit any inactive ones who attended, commend them for their efforts to attend, and warmly invite them to the next congregation meeting.

[4] **Visitors:** Some of those present may be acquaintances or family members whom we personally invited. Others may have received an invitation during the special campaign. If you see individuals you do not recognize, take the initiative to introduce yourself and welcome them. It may be that they have not attended one of our meetings before. In your conversation you may be able to find out how to contact them. By a personal visit or a brief telephone call a few days after the Memorial, you could try to cultivate further interest and offer a Bible study.

[5] The information in the Memorial talk can be used as a basis for introducing the *Bible Teach* book on a return visit. For example, the Memorial speaker will read Isaiah 65:21-23. On the return visit, you might mention the talk and say, "Let me show you other blessings the ransom makes possible." Then consider pages 4-5 of the *Bible Teach* book. Or you could say, "Many wonder when we will experience the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy." Then consider paragraphs 1-3 in chapter 9. Another option is simply to refer to the Memorial speaker's comments, introduce the *Bible Teach* book, and demonstrate the study.

[6] May each of us be alert to opportunities to assist Bible students, inactive publishers, and visitors who will be in attendance. (Luke 22:19) Jehovah will surely bless any increased activity in our Kingdom service.

1. What powerful witness will be given on March 22, 2008?
2. How may we assist Bible students who are present?
3. What can be done to encourage inactive publishers who are in attendance?
4. How may each of us help visitors?
5. What might we say to start a Bible study?
6. What opportunities do we have as we obey Jesus' command to commemorate his death?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — Mar. 1

"Every day we hear about suffering, disease, and death. Do you wonder if we will ever be saved from all of this? [Allow for response.] This Bible verse has given millions hope. [Read John 3:16.] 'How Jesus' Death Can Save You' is the subject of this magazine."

Awake!® Mar.

"Do you think that superstitions are harmless, or dangerous? [Allow for response.] The Bible makes this interesting comment. [Read Isaiah 65:11.] This article discusses whether superstition is compatible with Bible teaching." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — Apr. 1

"Wouldn't you like to see this prophecy come true? [Read Isaiah 2:4. Then allow for response.] Note that God will intervene in man's affairs and 'set matters straight.' The Bible indicates that God will fight a war called Armageddon that will end all wars. This magazine explains what Armageddon is and why we should look forward to it."

Awake!® Apr.

"Do you think that we may be living in the time period described here? [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4. Then allow for response.] There is good reason to be keenly interested in the last days because their occurrence indicates that good things are in store for the earth. This magazine explains."

OUR KINGDOM MI[redacted]

April 2008 For United States of America *km08* 04-E Us Vol. 51, No. 4

"Show Yourselves Thankful"

[1] When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one of them returned to express gratitude. Jesus asked: "The ten were cleansed, were they not? Where, then, are the other nine?" (Luke 17:11-19) How important it is for us to be appreciative and to show ourselves thankful for every good gift and perfect present bestowed upon us by our generous and loving heavenly Father, Jehovah God!—Col. 3:15; Jas. 1:17.

[2] What are some things for which to be thankful? We appreciate the ransom, God's greatest gift to mankind. (John 3:16) We are also thankful to Jehovah for drawing us to him. (John 6:44) Our Christian unity is another reason for being thankful. (Ps. 133:1-3) No doubt you can think of many other gifts from Jehovah. Never would we want to become like the ungrateful Israelites who forgot Jehovah's works in their behalf!—Ps. 106:12, 13.

[3] **Demonstrate Thankfulness:** Though all ten lepers may have appreciated what Jesus did for them, only one *showed* himself thankful. (Luke 17:15) Similarly, we demonstrate appreciation by having a zealous share in the ministry. If we are truly thankful for all that our loving heavenly Father has done, our hearts will be moved to reflect his love and generosity by telling others about him. (Luke 6:45) In turn, as we recount to others Jehovah's 'wonderful works and his thoughts toward us,' our love and appreciation for Jehovah will grow.—Ps. 40:5.

[4] **Instill Appreciation in Others:** We should be alert to help our children and Bible students to develop appreciation. Parents have many opportunities to do this, such as when enjoying Jehovah's creation with their children. (Rom. 1:20) When conducting a Bible study, we might ask our student, "What does this tell us about the kind of person Jehovah is?" As the student's appreciation grows, so will his love for God and his determination to please him.

[5] During these last days, many are unappreciative and unthankful. (2 Tim. 3:1, 2) How it must please Jehovah to see his devoted servants demonstrating thankfulness by their zealous participation in the ministry!—Jas. 1:22-25.

Be a Progressive Minister

[1] Our heavenly Father is pleased when his servants make spiritual advancement. That includes progressing as a mature and effective minister of the good news. Paul encouraged the overseer Timothy to continue applying himself so that his advancement would be manifest. (1 Tim. 4:13-15) All of us should endeavor to improve the quality of our ministry, even those of us who are experienced publishers.

[2] **Set Personal Goals:** Making progress requires setting personal goals. What are some goals we may set for ourselves? We might try to become more adept at using our spiritual sword, the Bible. (Eph. 6:17) Perhaps there is a feature of the ministry that we need to improve in, such as street witnessing, telephone witnessing, or working business territory. Perhaps we could work at making more effective return visits. Another excellent goal might be to improve our ability to start and conduct Bible studies.

[3] **Provisions:** Congregation meetings, especially the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, are designed to help us grow as ministers. The more effort we expend preparing for and attending these meetings and applying the suggestions given, the greater the benefits we are bound to receive.—2 Cor. 9:6.

[4] We also need to help one another to progress. (Prov. 27:17) Listening carefully to the presentation of those with whom we work in the ministry will help us to improve. In addition, our book study overseer may arrange for us to receive personal assistance. What a blessing it is to have an experienced pioneer or other publisher help us to become more productive and reap greater joy in the ministry! Is there a new publisher in our book study? Perhaps we can take the initiative to invite him to work with us.

[5] The most important work being done today is the Christian ministry. As we offer Jehovah our "sacrifice of praise," we want to give him our best. (Heb. 13:15) If we endeavor to be progressive in the ministry, we will be workmen "with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright." —2 Tim. 2:15.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: A Service Meeting will be scheduled in *Our Kingdom Ministry* for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Guided by God's Spirit" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat counsel and reminders from this month's insert that apply locally. A month or two following your convention, set aside 15 to 20 minutes on a Service Meeting (perhaps using a local needs portion) for a review of points from the convention that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry. The service overseer should handle the review. Invite the audience to comment on how they are applying or plan to apply that information in their ministry.

Week Starting April 14

Song 183

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!*

15 min: "Show Yourselves Thankful."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

20 min: "Comfort the Mourning Ones."* Invite audience to relate outstanding experiences they have had giving comfort to someone who lost a loved one in death.
Song 42

Week Starting April 21

Song 171

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind audience to bring the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!* to the Service Meeting next week and to be prepared to discuss appropriate presentations for the local territory.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "An Occasion to Eat Spiritually and Rejoice."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Mention the convention to which the congregation is assigned. Review the box "District Convention Reminders."
Song 197

Week Starting April 28

Song 55

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April. Using the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!* give a brief overview of each issue and ask the audience which articles may appeal best to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to suggest presentations using articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? How could the scripture be tied in? Using a presentation suggested by the audience or sample presentations from *Our Kingdom Ministry,* demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

10 min: Question Box. Audience discussion.

20 min: "Follow His Steps Closely."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.
Song 65

Week Starting May 5

Song 217

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Jehovah Will By No Means Leave You. Encouraging talk based on the October 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 8-11.

20 min: "Be a Progressive Minister."* When considering paragraph 3, include comments on the *Ministry School* book, pages 6-8, under the subheading "How to Benefit to the Full."
Song 11

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	427	106.5	65.1	43.2	4.5
Pios.	111,332	62.5	35.6	19.1	2.0
Aux. Pios.	40,874	48.6	30.2	11.5	1.0
Pubs.	906,169	9.6	7.7	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,058,802			Baptized:	2,011
Bermuda					
Pios.	67	70.2	36.6	21.6	2.1
Aux. Pios.	15	55.1	21.9	11.3	0.6
Pubs.	362	10.4	9.5	4.5	0.4
TOTAL	444				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	1	72.0	26.0	22.0	5.0
Pios.	20	63.1	35.0	28.9	7.0
Aux. Pios.	10	50.5	25.3	15.4	3.3
Pubs.	139	12.8	7.8	4.6	1.1
TOTAL	170			Baptized:	2

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"Follow His Steps Closely"

[1] Jesus was not educated in the rabbinic schools, yet he was history's greatest Minister. Thankfully, a written record of Jesus' ministry has been preserved for our benefit. In order for us to be effective ministers, we must "follow his steps closely."—1 Pet. 2:21.

[2] **Demonstrate Love for People:** Loving concern for people motivated Jesus. (Mark 6:30-34) Many in our territory are "in pain" and in great need of the truth. (Rom. 8:22) Our reflecting on their dire situation and on Jehovah's loving interest in them will motivate us to persist in preaching. (2 Pet. 3:9) Furthermore, people will more readily respond to our message if they discern that we genuinely care about them.

[3] **Speak at Every Opportunity:** Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to share the good news with others. (Matt. 4:23; 9:9; John 4:7-10) Similarly, we want to be prepared to talk about the truth as we go about our daily routine. Some keep a Bible and literature handy so that they may witness at work, at school, when traveling and shopping, and so forth.

[4] **Focus on the Kingdom:** The good news of the Kingdom was the theme of Jesus' preaching. (Luke 4:43) Although our presentation may not immediately or directly mention the Kingdom, we keep in mind helping the householder see the need for it. Even when mentioning bad world conditions that indicate that we are living in the last days, we primarily "declare good news of good things."—Rom. 10:15.

[5] **Rely on God's Word:** Throughout Jesus' ministry he relied on the Scriptures. He taught nothing of his own originality. (John 7:16, 18) He fed on God's Word and applied it to himself when under satanic attack. (Matt. 4:1-4) In order for us to teach others effectively, we must read the Bible daily and make personal application. (Rom. 2:21) When answering questions in the ministry, we should cite Scriptural backing for what we say and read directly from the Bible whenever possible. We want the householder to see that we are not expressing personal opinions but adhering to God's thoughts.

[6] **Reach the Heart in Your Teaching:** "Never has another man spoken like this." (John 7:46) So said the officers about Jesus when the chief priests and Pharisees asked why the officers failed to arrest him. Rather than simply conveying facts, Jesus taught in a way that reached the hearts of those he instructed. (Luke 24:32) He used true-to-life illustrations to breathe life into his words. (Matt. 13:34) Jesus did not overwhelm his listeners with too much information. (John 16:12) He drew attention to Jehovah rather than to himself. Like Jesus, we can become good teachers only by paying 'constant attention to our teaching.' —1 Tim. 4:16.

[7] **Persist Despite Apathy and Opposition:** Though Jesus performed powerful works, many did not listen to him. (Luke 10:13) Even members of Jesus' own family felt that he had "gone out of his mind." (Mark 3:21) Nonetheless, Jesus persisted. He maintained a positive attitude because he was totally convinced that he had the truth that could set men free. (John 8:32) With Jehovah's help, we too are determined not to give up.—2 Cor. 4:1.

[8] **Make Needed Sacrifices to Have a Full Share:** Jesus sacrificed material comforts for the ministry. (Matt. 8:20) He preached tirelessly, sometimes late into the day. (Mark 6:35, 36) Jesus knew that he had a limited amount of time to accomplish the work. Since "the time left is reduced," we too need to make personal sacrifices of our time, energy, and resources in imitation of Jesus.—1 Cor. 7:29-31.

[9] First-century Christians were effective ministers because they learned from Jesus. (Acts 4:13) We too can fully accomplish our ministry if we imitate history's greatest Minister.—2 Tim. 4:5.

1. How may we become effective ministers?
2. What will help us to cultivate Christlike love for people?
3. On what occasions did Jesus preach to others?
4. How may we make the Kingdom the theme of our preaching?
5. In order for our ministry to be effective, what role must the Bible play?
6. What did Jesus do to reach the hearts of his listeners?
7. Why did Jesus persist in the ministry?
8, 9. How may we imitate Jesus in making sacrifices for the sake of the good news?

District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. When the introductory music begins, all of us should take our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 4:55 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those disabled persons who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the area reserved for the disabled.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under your seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers, glass containers, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** We can show appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower."

■ **Accidents and Emergencies:** Emergency-response services have complained that they receive many cell-phone calls over minor matters. If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First Aid so that our qualified first-aid personnel on-site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If it is necessary, our first-aid personnel will call 911.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To make use of this provision, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver along with earphones.

■ **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats that can be secured in a seat next to the parents are acceptable.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas where we depend on mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be a kindness for us to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in those who suffer from respiratory or related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.

■ **Follow-Up Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should be used to provide information regarding any who show interest as a result of our informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two follow-up forms to the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room for handling or to your congregation secretary upon your return.—See the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, p. 6.

■ **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. In many places, it is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip, depending on the service.

■ **Hotels:** (1) Please do not reserve more rooms than will actually be needed, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it. (4) Do not cook in rooms where cooking is not permitted. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff at all times. (8) The room rate shown on the Recommended Lodging List is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged or billed for things you did not request or use, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible. (9) If a problem arises with your hotel room, be sure to inform the Rooming Department while at the convention.

An Occasion to Eat Spiritually and Rejoice

[1] Jehovah lovingly cares for the spiritual needs of his servants. While the world in general is spiritually starved, we eat very well indeed. (Isa. 65:13) One way that Jehovah nourishes us spiritually is through our annual district conventions. Are you making preparations to attend all sessions of the upcoming "Guided by God's Spirit" District Convention? A tasty and nourishing spiritual banquet has been arranged.

[2] **Plan Ahead:** "The plans of the diligent one surely make for advantage." (Prov. 21:5) Therefore, in finalizing your plans to be present all three days of the convention, do not put off speaking with your employer if you need to take time off work. If you will require overnight accommodations, have these been arranged? You will also want to plan your noon meals so that you can eat with your brothers at the convention site. Make arrangements to arrive at the convention early enough each day to find seating and share in the opening song and prayer.

[3] We want to make sure that the clothing we will wear is modest and well arranged. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) District conventions provide an excellent opportunity for us to give a witness to the community. By maintaining a dignified appearance while in the convention city and by wearing our convention badges, we stand out from unbelievers and make a favorable impression upon observers.

[4] **Listen Carefully:** We surely do not want to miss out on any morsel served at this spiritual banquet! (Prov. 22:17, 18) Following along in our Bible as texts are read and taking brief notes will help us keep our mind on the program and avoid distraction. Then in the evening, we can use our notes to discuss the highlights of the program with others.

1. How does Jehovah care for the spiritual needs of his servants?
2. Planning ahead for the convention involves what?
3. What type of clothing should we plan to wear?
4. What will help us and our families get the most from the program?

In recent years it has been observed that some youths sit together at the convention and converse during the program or engage in text messaging on their cell phones. If we have children, including teenagers, it may be advantageous for us to sit together and listen to the program as a family rather than to allow our young ones to sit apart from us with other youths.

[5] **Enjoy Fellowship:** A tasty meal is more enjoyable when shared with friends. (Prov. 15:17) Similarly, association with our brothers and sisters heightens our enjoyment of the convention. Therefore, when the program is not in session, how pleasant it is to take the initiative to meet other delegates and enjoy fellowship! (Ps. 133:1) When the chairman kindly invites us to take our seats before the music starts, we should end our conversations and be seated for the beginning of the program.

[6] **Be Alert to Witness:** Conventions usually provide excellent opportunities to give a witness. Many conventioners who go to restaurants after the program are asked by waiters and others about the theme shown on the convention badge. This has led to conversations and giving a fine witness to the truth. Some who inquired were then invited to the convention session and attended.

[7] Thousands of hours have been spent preparing the program, arranging for facilities, organizing convention departments, and preparing the parts. All the loving labor that has been invested in preparing this spiritual feast indicates Jehovah's tender care of his people. May all of us be present and eat heartily! As we do, unlike the world, we will "cry out joyfully because of the good condition of the heart."—Isa. 65:14.

5. How may we increase our enjoyment of the convention?
6. Relate a personal experience that shows how we may witness to people in the convention city.
7. Why should we attend the upcoming district convention?

QUESTION BOX

■ **Is it proper for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to receive treatment and care at a hospital or nursing home operated by a religious organization?**

Various religious organizations operate hospitals or nursing homes that provide medical treatment or long-term care. Generally, such facilities are not established for the outright promotion of Babylon the Great. (Rev. 18:2, 4) They may originally have been incorporated to serve a religious organization as a source of income. Today, some hospitals are religious in their name only, whereas others are still partially staffed by members of the clergy.

If one of Jehovah's Witnesses requires hospital or nursing care, he must make his own decision as to whether he will go to a facility that may possibly be connected with a religious organization. The conscience of one might permit him to do so, but the conscience of another may prevent him from doing so. (1 Tim. 1:5) There are certain circumstances that may have a bearing on one's decision, and it is good to consider these.

For example, a hospital or nursing home with a religious name may be the only one in the immediate area. Or if there is another facility nearby, the one with possible religious connections may have a reputation for superior service. Such a hospital with a religious name may be the *only* one equipped to provide the particular treatment needed, or it may be the only hospital where your doctor or surgeon is able to handle cases. Also, sometimes hospitals with religious connections may respect your viewpoint as a Christian on the use of blood, whereas some other private or municipal hospitals may not. So these are some factors that you may have to consider when deciding what facility to use.

If you do decide to use a hospital or nursing home with religious connections, you might view it merely as paying for services rendered. You might view it as if the religious organization were operating a certain business, and in purchasing a service from such a business you would not be making a direct, voluntary contribution to the support of a false religion. You would merely be paying for a product or a service.

Of course, as a Christian, in such circumstances you must definitely see to it that you do not engage in any acts of false worship. Also, you would not ascribe the usual religious titles, such as "Father" or "Sister," to individuals who may work at or visit the facility. (Matt. 23:9) You would have to see to it that the matter is strictly a business arrangement in which you are receiving treatment and service, and nothing more.

When being admitted to the hospital, you may indicate that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses and that you would like to receive visits from local elders. This will ensure that you receive proper spiritual support during your stay.—1 Thess. 5:14.

Believing family members, local elders, and others in the congregation should responsibly care for the spiritual needs of any elderly brothers and sisters who live in nursing homes, particularly when operated by a religious organization. Diligence in this regard will be of great encouragement to such older ones and will prevent them from inadvertently being included in religious services, celebrations, or other similar activities held at such facilities.

With these points in mind, each one will have to consider all the circumstances involved and then make his own decision as to which hospital or nursing home he will use.—Gal. 6:5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May**: The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. A special effort should be made to visit newly interested ones who attended the Memorial or the special public talk but who are not actively associated with the congregation. The purpose of such visits should be to start a home Bible study with those who have not yet accepted one. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* If the congregation does not have this brochure in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2008 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregation, these should be requested using the jw.org Web site or, if that is not possible, by submitting the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Plastic badge card holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These may be requested by using the jw.org Web site or, if that is not possible, by submitting the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Before sending regular pioneer application forms to the branch office, make sure they are completely filled out.

■ Since the operating hours of the Bethel switchboard have changed, it is no longer possible to call the branch office from 11:55 a.m. on Saturday to 8:00 a.m. on Monday, eastern time, to obtain information regarding Kingdom Hall locations and meeting times. Publishers should consider their needs for such information in advance and call the branch office during regular working hours (on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.). Or some may choose to consult an electronic telephone directory on the Internet. Congregation secretaries should confirm that their Kingdom Hall information is accurately listed in the local telephone directory.—See the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 28, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 3 through April 28, 2008.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is it important to build our talks around the assigned material, and how can we do this? [*be* p. 234 par. 1–p. 235 par. 1]
2. Why are questions so valuable when we are teaching? [*be* p. 236 pars. 1-5]
3. How can questions help our listeners to reason on a subject? [*be* p. 237 par. 3–p. 238 par. 1]
4. When teaching, why is skillful use of questions important to draw out inner feelings of the listener? (Prov. 20:5; Matt. 16:13-16; John 11:26) [*be* p. 238 pars. 3-5]
5. What is the value of using similes when teaching? (Gen. 22:17; Jer. 13:11) [*be* p. 240 pars. 1-3]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What are some of the guiding principles highlighted in the book of Mark that will help us gain life under God's Kingdom? [*si* p. 186 par. 32]
7. How does holy spirit help God's servants today? (John 14:25, 26) [*be* p. 19 pars. 2-3]
8. What is the greatest benefit that comes from reading? [*be* p. 21 par. 3]
9. What is involved in study? [*be* p. 27 par. 3–p. 28 par. 1]
10. How does the Gospel of Luke build confidence in the divine inspiration of the Hebrew Scriptures? [*si* p. 192 pars. 30-1]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why did Jesus correct a certain man for calling Him "Good Teacher"? (Mark 10: 17, 18) [*w08* 2/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive —Highlights From the Book of Mark"]
12. Jesus used the fig tree to illustrate what with regard to the nation of Israel? (Mark 11:12-14, 20, 21) [*w03* 5/15 p. 26 pars. 2-3]
13. What was indicated by the wording the angel Gabriel used when he said that Mary would '*conceive* in her womb' as the result of God's holy spirit coming upon her and God's power overshadowing her? (Luke 1: 30, 31, 34, 35) [*w08* 3/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of Luke"; *it*-2 p. 56 par. 2]
14. Were Jesus' disciples actually doing 'what was not lawful on the Sabbath'? (Luke 6: 1, 2) [*gt* 31]
15. What is the lesson to be learned from Jesus' counsel to Martha? (Luke 10:40-42) [*w99* 9/1 p. 31]

Comfort the Mourning Ones

[1] Losing a loved one in death is a traumatic experience, especially for those who do not have the Kingdom hope. (1 Thess. 4: 13) Many often wonder: 'Why do people die? Where do they go? Will I ever see my loved one again?' Below are some suggestions for giving comfort to those we meet in field service who are mourning the death of a relative or a friend.—Isa. 61:2.

[2] **From Door to Door:** A householder may tell us that he just had a death in his family. Is he in emotional turmoil? Is the house filled with grieving relatives? In such cases, it may be best not to give an extended witness. (Eccl. 3:1, 7) Perhaps we can express our sympathy, give him an appropriate tract, magazine, or brochure, and excuse ourselves. Then we can return at a more suitable time to share further comfort from the Bible.

[3] On other occasions, we may discern that more can be said on the initial call. Though this is not the time to refute wrong views, we may be able to read with them the Bible's promises regarding the resurrection. (John 5:28, 29) Or we could share what the Bible says about the condition of the dead. (Eccl. 9:5, 10) A Biblical account of a resurrection may also provide comfort. (John 11:39-44) Another option would be to consider the words of hope in Jehovah expressed by faithful Job. (Job 14:14, 15) Before leaving, we may offer *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *When Someone You Love Dies*, or another appropriate brochure or tract. Or we might leave the *Bible Teach* book, draw attention to the information in chapter 6, and arrange to discuss the subject further when we return.

[4] **On Other Occasions:** If a funeral or memorial service is being held at the Kingdom Hall, will unbelievers be present? Literature that provides comfort could be made available for them. Some funeral homes have appreciated having some appropriate literature on hand for grieving families. At times, funeral notices appearing in the newspaper have opened the way for writing a brief comforting letter to bereaved family members. In one case, after receiving a letter that included some tracts, a widower and his daughter went to the publisher's home and asked: "Are you the people that sent me this letter? Well, I want to know more about the Bible!" The man and his daughter agreed to a Bible study and began attending congregation meetings.

[5] Ecclesiastes 7:2 says: "Better is it to go to the house of mourning than to go to the banquet house." The mourner is usually in a better frame of mind for listening to God's Word than the merrymaker. All of us should be alert to recognize appropriate opportunities to comfort those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

1. Why do mourning ones need comfort?
2. If a householder tells us that he is grieving, should we always try to give an extended witness?
3. If the circumstances allow, what scriptures might we show a grieving householder?
4. What other occasions do we have to provide comfort?
5. Why should we be alert to opportunities to comfort those who are grieving?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Apr. 1

"Since earth's resources are being abused, have you ever wondered if the earth will survive? [Allow for response.] Notice this comforting promise. [Read Psalm 104:5.] This article shows what the Bible says about the future of the earth." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

Awake!® Apr.

"With all we have to do, many find it difficult to set aside time to worship God. Do you find that to be a challenge? [Allow for response. Then read Ephesians 5:15-17.] This article gives the Bible's reasonable explanation regarding how much time and energy God expects us to devote to him." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

THE WATCHTOWER® May 1

"Many people say that they believe only in what they can see. Do you agree with them? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 1:20.] This magazine highlights three of God's attributes that we can clearly see in creation and discusses how knowing about these qualities can affect us."

Awake!® May

"Many people today fear the future. Do you think things will get better, or do you think they will get worse? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This magazine explains why we can have confidence that God will soon solve the tough problems that mankind has been unable to correct."

OUR KINGDOM MI[redacted]

May 2008 For United States of America km08 05-E Us Vol. 51, No. 5

"Take My Yoke Upon You"

[1] In a world filled with pressures and anxieties, we have experienced real relief by responding to Jesus' warm invitation to find the refreshment provided under his yoke. (Matt. 11:29, 30) Accepting the yoke of discipleship includes engaging in a work that is not only challenging but also refreshing. It involves preaching the good news of the Kingdom and helping others to find refreshment along with us under Jesus' kindly yoke.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

[2] **Refreshment From the Ministry:** Jesus did not ask his followers to add his load to what they were already carrying. He invited them to trade their heavy load for his light one. No longer are we weighed down with the anxieties and hopelessness of this system of things; neither do we toil for uncertain riches. (Luke 21:34; 1 Tim. 6:17) Even though we are busy and must work to obtain daily necessities, we center our lives on the worship of God. (Matt. 6:33) We will always find the ministry to be refreshing, not burdensome, if we maintain the proper perspective on what is most important.—Phil. 1:10.

[3] Naturally, we enjoy talking about whatever we hold dear to our heart. (Luke 6:45) All Christians care deeply about Jehovah and the Kingdom blessings he has promised. Thus, how refreshing it is to talk about "good news of good things" and leave behind our daily cares while sharing in the ministry! (Rom. 10:15) Of course, the more we do something, the more proficient we become and the more joy we experience. Therefore, devoting more time to the ministry, if we are able, will bring additional refreshment. And how invigorating it is when individuals respond to our preaching! (Acts 15:3) Even when we encounter apathy or opposition, the ministry will bring spiritual refreshment if we keep in mind that our efforts please Jehovah and that any positive results will be due to his blessing.—Acts 5:41; 1 Cor. 3:9.

[4] By accepting Jesus' invitation, we enjoy the privilege of serving alongside him as Witnesses of Jehovah. (Isa. 43:10; Rev. 1:5) Nothing could be more refreshing than that!

"Be Ready for Every Good Work"

[1] When Jesus began a new preaching campaign, he took time to prepare his disciples. (Matt. 10:5-14) Although all of us are busy, our taking even a few minutes to prepare before sharing in the door-to-door ministry will help us to reap fine results.—2 Cor. 9:6.

[2] **How to Prepare:** Good preparation starts with becoming acquainted with the literature we plan to offer. We should also think about the people in our territory. What issues concern them? What religious beliefs are we likely to encounter? We can consult the sample presentations in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* for ideas.

[3] Carefully listening to the demonstrations given on the Service Meeting will also help us. As we gain experience using our presentation, we will need less time to prepare. However, each time before we go in the ministry, if we give some thought to what we will say and continue to refine our presentation, we will be more effective. We should also take a moment to check that our witnessing bag contains what we will need.

[4] What will help us remember our presentation? Practicing out loud is one way to fix in our mind what we want to say. Some enjoy having practice sessions during their family study. Others find it helpful to write a short summary of their presentation on an index card and glance at it just before approaching the door.

[5] **Why Beneficial:** Being well-prepared increases our effectiveness and joy in the ministry. It helps us to relax and to be less nervous at the door. We are able to give greater attention to the householder instead of being preoccupied with what we are going to say. In addition, being familiar with the literature will help us to be more enthusiastic when offering it.

[6] The Scriptures urge us to "be ready for every good work." (Titus 3:1) What better work is there than that of preaching the good news? By being well-prepared, we demonstrate respect for the householder who agrees to listen, and for Jehovah, the God whom we represent.—Isa. 43:10.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting May 12

Song 134

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!*

15 min: We Can Cope With Any Trial! Talk based on the June 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 30-1. Invite selected publishers to comment on how Jehovah helped them to cope with a particular trial.

20 min: Can You Auxiliary Pioneer During the Summer? Audience discussion. Review pages 112-13 in the *Organized* book, outlining the requirements. Invite those who have used vacation from work to auxiliary pioneer to comment on the blessings they enjoyed. Ask those who have auxiliary pioneered during school vacation to comment on how others encouraged and assisted them. How did auxiliary pioneering help them to progress spiritually? What joys did they experience? Encourage all those who qualify to consider pioneering during the summer months.

Song 187

Week Starting May 19

Song 47

10 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Riches Can Be Yours!"* Comment on the qualifications for regular pioneers, found on pages 113-14 of the *Organized* book. Those who wish to begin pioneering on September 1 should submit their application as soon as possible.

Song 206

Week Starting May 26

Song 103

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!*

15 min: "Take My Yoke Upon You."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

20 min: Offer the *Bible Teach* book during June. Talk and demonstrations. Review some of the sample presentations from the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Include a two-part demonstration. Show how the book might be offered and then how to make a return visit with the goal of starting a Bible study.

Song 169

Week Starting June 2

Song 221

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Those of Faithful Acts Receive Many Blessings. (Prov. 28:20) Talk and audience discussion by the secretary. Outline how Jehovah has blessed the congregation's efforts to increase its activity during March, April, and May, and give commendation. Announce the number that auxiliary pioneered, how many new Bible studies were started, and other good things accomplished in the ministry. Invite audience to relate experiences in connection with the Memorial and the campaign to distribute invitations. Outstanding field service experiences may be reenacted. Briefly interview two or three publishers regarding the blessings they enjoyed as auxiliary pioneers.

15 min: "Be Ready for Every Good Work."* Invite audience to relate how and when they prepare for the door-to-door ministry.

Song 44

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	453	106.6	65.1	45.8	4.8
Pios.	110,696	63.8	33.9	20.1	2.0
Aux. Pios.	28,134	49.1	28.4	12.9	1.2
Pubs.	910,305	9.5	7.2	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,049,588			Baptized:	2,196
Bermuda					
Pios.	67	69.9	32.0	24.6	2.2
Aux. Pios.	5	45.0	15.4	14.2	0.6
Pubs.	374	11.5	9.4	4.8	0.5
TOTAL	446				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	2	100.0	51.0	51.0	8.0
Pios.	19	72.5	43.3	36.3	7.6
Aux. Pios.	8	54.3	30.4	18.9	5.1
Pubs.	157	11.9	9.1	4.2	1.0
TOTAL	186			Baptized:	2

We are happy to report two new peaks for the Turks and Caicos Islands! The total publishers surpassed the peak of 176 set in April 2006 and the 3,881 total hours is an increase of 257 over the peak set in December 2007.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. A special effort will be made to visit newly interested ones who attended the Memorial or the special public talk but who are not actively associated with the congregation. The purpose of such visits should be to start a home Bible study with those who have not yet accepted one. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* If the congregation does not have this brochure in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If the congregation does not have this book in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied.

■ Bodies of elders should review the July 6, 2006, letter regarding disaster preparedness and ensure that they have up-to-date contact information for each publisher. In disaster-prone areas, additional emergency contact information should be obtained. Of course, in addition to emergency situations, it is helpful when publishers communicate with their Congregation Book Study overseer or another elder if they will be away for extended periods, such as when traveling on vacation or business, during a hospital stay, and so forth.

■ Please take note that there will be no special invitation handbill advertising the 2008 district convention. However, we are planning for a significant global campaign in the near future. Further details regarding that arrangement will be provided later.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook.*

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are made by check at district conventions should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a *Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address* (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.

QUESTION BOX

■ Is it appropriate for the audience to applaud after each part on the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting?

When the Creator, Jehovah, founded the earth, "the morning stars joyfully cried out together, and all the sons of God began shouting in applause." (Job 38:7) These angelic sons of God desired to praise Jehovah for his outstanding work of creation, which was a new manifestation of his wisdom, goodness, and power.

It is a fine thing for us to express heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of our brothers and for the material they present. For example, we normally applaud talks and presentations at special gatherings, such as assemblies and conventions. The parts presented there have required additional time and effort to prepare. Our applause shows appreciation not only for the hard work of the speaker but also for the instruction that Jehovah provides through his Word and organization.—Isa. 48:17; Matt. 24:45-47.

What about applauding parts presented on the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting? There are no rules forbidding applause if it is done spontaneously, such as after a student has completed his first school assignment. However, applause could easily become perfunctory and lose its meaning. Therefore, we normally do not applaud each presentation.

While we might not applaud for most parts on the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, there are other ways that all of us can express appreciation for the instruction and for the efforts of those who present parts. We can do this by remaining alert and paying close attention to the speakers. And after the meeting, it is often possible personally to express appreciation for their efforts.—Eph. 1:15, 16.

Riches Can Be Yours!

[1] Do you seek greater joy and fulfillment in your life? Do you find pleasure and satisfaction in helping others? Do you desire to increase your service to Jehovah? If you answer yes to any of these questions, then you should consider regular pioneering. Of course, family and other Scriptural responsibilities, as well as health and physical limitations, must be taken into consideration.

[2] Solomon's divinely inspired writings associate the blessing of Jehovah with material riches. (Prov. 10:22) Today, Jehovah's blessing results primarily in spiritual riches. Such riches overflow for regular pioneers. For instance, they experience the greater happiness of giving to others as they 'buy out the time' from personal pursuits. (Col. 4:5; Acts 20:35) Their labors of love are noticed and appreciated by Jehovah. Such "treasures in heaven" will never diminish in value. (Matt. 6:20; Heb. 6:10) Furthermore, as pioneers keep a 'simple eye' and trust in Jehovah to provide necessities, their relationship with him grows stronger.—Matt. 6: 22, 25, 32; Heb. 13:5, 6.

[3] The pursuit of material riches often leads to "many senseless and hurtful desires." (1 Tim. 6:9, 10; Jas. 5:1-3) This is never the case with the blessing of Jehovah. Spending a significant portion of their time in the ministry helps regular pioneers maintain spiritual balance and a clear focus on the more important things. (Phil. 1: 10) One brother left his time-consuming career as an engineer to pioneer. He said: "I found my secular work stressful. Not so with pioneering. I now get to help people and teach them the truth. This has been far more fulfilling and challenging."

[4] **Blessings to Others:** Today, everyone faces "critical times hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) People everywhere desperately need hope. Kingdom proclaimers rejoice at seeing firsthand that the look of despair on people's faces can change to that of optimism as they respond to the good news. How great that joy is for regular pioneers, who devote more than 800 hours each year to this rescue work!—1 Tim. 4:16.

[5] Have you been giving serious thought to serving as a regular pioneer? It may require "buying out the opportune time" from less important pursuits. (Eph. 5: 15, 16) Many have done so and have simplified their lives, enabling them to cut back on secular work in order to devote more time to Kingdom interests. Can you arrange your affairs to join them?

[6] Request wisdom from Jehovah to work out a practical schedule. (Jas. 1:5) What blessings can you expect in return? Spiritual riches in abundance! Jehovah will also bless you materially with what you need. (Matt. 6:33) Those who test Jehovah out in this respect will receive "a blessing until there is no more want."—Mal. 3:10.

1. Why consider regular pioneering?
2. Mention some of the spiritual riches that regular pioneers acquire.
3. What contrast exists between the pursuit of spiritual riches and the pursuit of material riches?
4. How are regular pioneers blessed while bringing blessings to others?
5, 6. What may enable you to become a regular pioneer?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — May 1

"The increase of natural disasters in our day has caused some to wonder if we are being punished by God. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read 1 John 4:8.] This article explains why God is not responsible for the suffering caused by natural disasters." Feature the article on page 30.

Awake!® May

Read Matthew 6:10. Then ask: "Have you ever wondered what God's will is for the earth? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, God had a purpose for the earth from the beginning and that purpose has not changed. This article explains." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — June 1

"One of the best-known Bible stories is that of Noah and the Flood. Do you think that the Flood really happened? [Allow for response.] Interestingly, Jesus referred to it as an actual event. [Read Luke 17:26, 27.] This magazine gives reasons to believe the Flood account and explains the vital lessons taught by it."

Awake!® June

"Child rearing is challenging, especially when a child reaches adolescence and experiences dramatic changes. Where do you think parents can turn for reliable advice? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 48:17, 18.] This magazine gives some up-to-date suggestions to help parents act with wisdom and understanding."

OUR KINGDOM [redacted] RY

June 2008 For United States of America km08 06-E Us Vol. 51, No. 6

Preach Without Letup

[1] At times, we may feel that our territory has been worked repeatedly and thoroughly with minimal response. Yet, there are compelling reasons for us to keep preaching.—Matt. 28: 19, 20.

[2] **For a Witness:** Jesus foretold that Kingdom preaching would be a significant part of the composite sign of "the conclusion of the system of things" and that it would be done "for a witness to all the nations." (Matt. 24:3, 14) When people observe us engaging in preaching the Kingdom good news, a powerful witness is given. After we leave the area, some people may talk about our visit for hours or for days, even if they did not listen to the message. Appreciating the reasons for our ministry helps us to persevere. We are pleasing Jehovah by having a share in fulfilling Bible prophecy by giving a witness and sounding a warning message.—2 Thess. 1:6-9.

[3] **Perseverance Needed:** Because people have so many distractions and so many demands on their time, perseverance is required of us when we endeavor to further their interest. One woman was called on every week for a year before she decided to invite the Witnesses into her home for a Bible discussion. She liked what she heard so much that she accepted a Bible study, began attending meetings, and soon expressed a desire to get baptized.

[4] World conditions are changing rapidly, and so are people. Many who rejected our visit in the past may now embrace the refreshing hope we share. If only one person responds favorably to the Kingdom message, our perseverance will have been worth it.

[5] Worldwide, more and more people are "sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done." (Ezek. 9:4) Kingdom fruitage proves that those who are righteously disposed are responding to the Kingdom message. (Isa. 2:2, 3) Therefore, let us continue to preach without letup by lovingly persevering in "bringing good news of something better." —Isa. 52:7; Acts 5:42.

Is Your Family Preparing for Survival?

[1] Fulfilled Bible prophecy gives convincing evidence of the fast-approaching end of this wicked world. We now live in critical times very similar to those before the Flood. (Matt. 24:37-39) Noah survived the destruction of that ancient world because he "walked with the true God." (Gen. 6:9) Noah must have taught his family Jehovah's ways because they too were preserved alive. In what way can we imitate Noah and prepare as a family to survive the end of this present wicked system of things?

[2] **Preacher of Righteousness:** Noah persevered for some 40 to 50 years as "a preacher of righteousness." (2 Pet. 2:5) His neighbors, whether under the influence of rebellious materialized angels or not, must have scoffed at his preaching. Our ministry is often met with apathy and ridicule, proving that this system of things is near its end. (2 Pet. 3:3, 4) However, unlike people in Noah's day, many are responding to our efforts and 'streaming' to Jehovah's worship. (Isa. 2:2) We will save 'ourselves and those who listen to us' only if we persevere. (1 Tim. 4:16) How vital it is for parents to teach their children about the urgency of the preaching work both by word and by example!—2 Tim. 4:2.

[3] **He Did "Just So":** The survival of Noah and his family depended on their carefully following Jehovah's instructions. (Gen. 6:22) It is also important for us today to be "ready to obey" direction from the Bible and the faithful slave. (Jas. 3: 17) Adult children in one family recall how their father applied suggestions received from Jehovah's organization. For example, he conducted a family study every week and took the family in the ministry every weekend as recommended. He endeavored to have one of his children accompany him in the ministry each week. His steadfastness in doing "just so" made a deep impression on his children, and all six of them grew up to be loyal servants of Jehovah.

[4] The end of this system will come suddenly. (Luke 12:40) By imitating Noah and exercising faith for salvation, we and our family will surely be ready! —Heb. 11:7.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 9

Song 121

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!*

20 min: How to Prepare to Conduct a Bible Study. Talk based on the August 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1. At the end of the discussion, have a demonstration of a publisher who hastily tries to get ready to conduct a Bible study. Then have another publisher who prepares by taking into consideration some of the suggestions presented in *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Preach Without Letup."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 201

Week Starting June 16

Song 90

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind audience to bring the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!* to the Service Meeting next week and to be prepared to discuss appropriate presentations they plan to use.

15 min: Highlight the Practical Value of the Good News. Talk and audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 159. Invite audience to comment on issues that are presently of concern to people in the local territory. Ask for suggestions on how we may address such concerns in our presentations.

20 min: "Is Your Family Preparing for Survival?"* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 54

Week Starting June 23

Song 140

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Mention the literature offer for July, and have one presentation demonstrated.

20 min: An Enriched Life Through Regular Pioneering. Talk based on the January 15, 2008, *Watchtower,* pages 17-19. If available, two regular pioneers, a new one and one who has served for many years, may be interviewed. Have them relate how their lives have been enriched by this precious form of service.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Current Magazines. Audience discussion. After giving a brief overview of the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!* ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the local territory and why. Invite audience to mention specific points in articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? Using the sample presentations from *Our Kingdom Ministry* or a presentation suggested by the audience, demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

Song 82

Week Starting June 30

Song 97

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for June.

20 min: How to Improve Our Conversation Skills. Talk and audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, from page 62, paragraph 4, to the end of page 64. Tailor the information to the local territory. Briefly interview a publisher who is known for his ability to draw people into conversations when in the door-to-door ministry or when witnessing informally.

15 min: Do You Remember? Audience discussion based on the April 15, 2008, *Watchtower,* page 29.

Song 179

Week Starting July 7

Song 125

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "When a Householder Speaks Another Language."* To be handled by the service overseer. When considering paragraph 2, inform the congregation of different language groups or congregations that are preaching in the same area as the congregation. Outline any specific arrangements put in place to help the language groups or congregations involved to cooperate in the preaching activity.

Song 188

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	439	105.8	63.4	42.5	4.6
Pios.	110,506	60.0	32.4	19.0	2.0
Aux. Pios.	23,600	47.7	28.6	12.7	1.3
Pubs.	919,575	9.2	7.0	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,054,120			Baptized:	1,783
Bermuda					
Pios.	69	67.5	36.8	22.2	2.2
Aux. Pios.	5	57.0	18.6	15.0	1.0
Pubs.	359	11.0	9.5	4.6	0.4
TOTAL	433				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	2	107.0	55.5	49.0	9.0
Pios.	19	63.3	34.1	30.3	7.1
Aux. Pios.	7	41.3	18.7	27.9	6.3
Pubs.	153	12.5	8.1	4.6	1.1
TOTAL	181				

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* If the congregation does not have this brochure in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If the congregation does not have this book in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study.

■ Since August has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Someone designated by the presiding overseer should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of March, April, and May. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ It is recommended that applications for regular pioneer service be submitted to the branch office *at least 30 days* before the requested start date. The congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure that they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) card.

■ Since January 2008, audio files of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in English and Spanish have been made available at the Web site www.jw.org. Many prefer downloading these audio magazines, which become available before the CD or MP3 discs arrive in the congregations. Whenever a download is made, the organization does accrue a charge. However, this distribution is more economical than manufacturing and shipping discs. Therefore, publishers who download the magazines are encouraged to cancel their order for CD or MP3 discs with the magazine servant. Audio programs in additional languages will progressively become available through www.jw.org.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: September 13, 2008 (Gilead graduation); October 4, 2008 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 14, 2009 (Gilead graduation); and May 8-9, 2009 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 30, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 5 through June 30, 2008. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What can we do to ensure that the illustrations we use are understood? [*be* p. 242 par. 3–p. 243 par. 1]
2. Why are uncomplicated illustrations that are drawn from familiar situations effective? [*be* p. 245 pars. 2-4]
3. How important is effective use of visual aids, and how did Jehovah use them to teach vital lessons? (Gen. 15:5; Jer. 18:6; Jonah 4:10, 11) [*be* p. 247 pars. 1-2]
4. How might we employ visual aids to enhance our teaching? [*be* p. 248 pars. 1-3]
5. How can we use maps as effective visual aids when teaching Bible students? [*be* p. 248 par. 4]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. With the aid of God's holy spirit, what will a study of the Bible help us to discern? [*be* p. 32 pars. 3-4]
7. How might we use the Bible itself to research the meaning of a scripture? [*be* p. 34 par. 4–p. 35 par. 2]
8. How is Jesus' role as Jehovah's channel of blessings to mankind stressed in John's Gospel? [*si* p. 198 par. 32]
9. What is the Scriptural basis for crediting the physician Luke with writing the book of Acts? [*si* p. 199 par. 3; p. 200 pars. 5-7]
10. In general, how might one proceed when making up an outline for a talk? [*be* pp. 39-41]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Which temple "was built in forty-six years"? (John 2:20) [*w08* 4/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive —Highlights From the Book of John"]
12. Who are those 'passing over from death to life'? (John 5:24, 25) [*w08* 4/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of John"]
13. When referring to the helper, or the spirit of the truth, why is the pronoun "it" used at John 14:16, 17, whereas "him" and "he" are used at John 16:7, 8, 13, 14? [*w08* 4/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of John"]
14. Why did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene to stop clinging to him? (John 20:17) [*w08* 4/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of John"]
15. What is the meaning of Jesus' coming "in the same manner" as he ascended to heaven? (Acts 1:9-11) [*rs* p. 342 par. 4; *it*-1 p. 186 par. 8]

When a Householder Speaks Another Language

[1] More and more frequently, Kingdom publishers around the world are finding interested people who speak a language other than that of the congregation. In order to assist such ones spiritually, many branches are finding it necessary to form language groups and congregations. Since a number of languages may be spoken in one area, several congregations of different languages may preach in the same territory. How may the congregations cooperate in order to make sure that the preaching work is carried out in an orderly manner?—1 Cor. 14:33.

[2] **Good Cooperation:** When doing street work or when witnessing informally, a publisher should feel free to approach anyone, including those who may speak another language, and offer literature in the language that the person prefers to read. However, when going from house to house in neighborhoods that are also worked by some other language group or congregation, a publisher should generally focus on the homes of those who speak the language of the congregation that the publisher attends. When different congregations preach in the same neighborhood, good record keeping is paramount. The service overseers should communicate with each other and coordinate matters in a mutually agreeable way. (Prov. 11:14) However, if someone who speaks another language is encountered while going from door to door and *there are no congregations of that language* nearby, the publisher should endeavor to give a witness and to care for the interest.

[3] **The Same Work:** How should matters be handled when publishers from different congregations happen to be preaching in the same neighborhood on the same day? Of course, Christian love will transcend any language barrier, and all will be primarily concerned about the needs of the territory. (John 13:34, 35) Therefore, those taking the lead will demonstrate reasonableness and love in deciding whether one group should temporarily move to a different territory.—Jas. 3:17, 18.

[4] The Bible prophesied that people of different tongues would hear the good news. (Rev. 14:6, 7) By close cooperation among all involved, unnecessary duplication of effort can be avoided and many new ones will be reached with the good news, including those who speak another language. —Eph. 4:16.

1. Why is there an increasing need for cooperation when working the territory?
2. When preaching from door to door, how may we cooperate with a different language group or congregation in our area?
3. How should we react when we encounter publishers from a different language group or congregation working in the same territory as we are?
4. What prophecy is being fulfilled today?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"Do you think that all religions are acceptable to God? [Allow for response.] It is interesting how God reacted when ancient Israel adopted the religious practices of nations around them. [Read Ezekiel 6:6.] This article answers the question, 'Does It Matter How We Worship God?'" Feature the article that begins on page 9.

Awake! June

"No doubt you would agree that the teenage years are especially challenging for teens and their parents alike. Do you think that following this advice would enhance parenting skills? [Read James 1:19. Then allow for response.] You will enjoy the practical, Bible-based suggestions in this magazine."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"All of us experience the pain of losing loved ones in death. At such times, do you think the Bible can help? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 55:22.] This magazine considers some of the practical coping skills discussed in the Bible."

Awake! July

"Married people are under increasing pressure, and many marriages end in divorce. Do you think that following this advice would contribute to success in marriage? [Read Proverbs 12:18. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses other Bible principles that can help married people strengthen their relationship."

OUR KINGDOM MI[redacted]

July 2008 For United States of America km08 07-E Us Vol. 51, No. 7

Live With Jehovah's Day in Mind

[1] "The great day of Jehovah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much." (Zeph. 1:14) Zephaniah and the other 11 so-called Minor Prophets lived with Jehovah's day in mind. Considering their inspired writings at our Congregation Book Study as outlined in the book *Live With Jehovah's Day in Mind* will help us to prepare for that fear-inspiring day. —Zeph. 2:2, 3.

[2] **Unique Features:** Rather than focusing on symbolic meanings or verse-by-verse explanations of these 12 prophetic books, the *Jehovah's Day* book explains how these inspired writings apply to real-life situations that we face every day. It emphasizes why a sense of urgency should permeate all our decisions and actions. Matters of family life, relationships with fellow believers, entertainment choices, our ministry, and career decisions are brought into focus.

[3] Section 1 of the book acquaints us with the 12 prophets and their writings. Who were they? What do we have in common with them? Section 2 focuses attention on Jehovah and his qualities. What insight into Jehovah and his personality do these prophets provide? Section 3 concentrates on our own conduct and dealings. How may we daily please God in practical ways? Section 4 explains how to live joyfully while keeping in expectation of Jehovah's day.

[4] **Plan Now to Benefit:** Resolve now to benefit fully from the study of the *Jehovah's Day* book, which will begin the week of August 4, 2008! Aim to be present at the Congregation Book Study every week. Prepare each lesson carefully, looking up the scriptures to see how they relate to the material presented. Meditate on the information by asking yourself, 'How can I apply this information at home, at school, at work, in my ministry, and in my dealings with my Christian brothers and sisters?' Come to the book study prepared to comment so as to share in an interchange of encouragement.—Rom. 1:12.

[5] May our consideration of the *Jehovah's Day* book prepare us now, so that we may "hold up under" the "great and very fear-inspiring" day of Jehovah. That day is indeed close at hand! —Joel 2:11.

We Are Overturning Strongly Entrenched Things

[1] For centuries, using false teachings and deception, Satan has built barriers in the hearts and minds of many people. He has propagated such doctrines as the Trinity, the immortality of the soul, and hellfire. He promotes doubt about the existence of a Creator and skepticism about the authenticity of the Bible. Racism and nationalism are other formidable barriers to the light of truth. (2 Cor. 4:4) How can we overturn such strongly entrenched beliefs?—2 Cor. 10:4, 5.

[2] **Emotions Involved:** Long-held religious beliefs often involve a person's deepest emotions. Some have held to erroneous beliefs since childhood. To help such ones, we need to speak in a way that demonstrates respect for their viewpoint.—1 Pet. 3:15.

[3] We can dignify such individuals by allowing them to explain what they believe and why. (Jas. 1:19) Perhaps they hold to the belief that the soul is immortal because they have lost loved ones in death and long to see them again. Or they may celebrate holidays because they cherish the opportunities these afford to be with their family. Listening to their expressions will give us insight into their feelings and help us to respond in an effective manner. —Prov. 16:23.

[4] **Imitate Jesus:** Jesus provided an excellent example for us when he responded to questions from a man versed in the Law. Jesus did not give direct answers, which the man may have rejected because of cherished beliefs. Instead, Jesus referred to the Scriptures, invited him to express his view, and helped him to reason by means of an illustration.—Luke 10:25-37.

[5] Strongly held false religious beliefs are in no way equal to the truth of God's Word. (Heb. 4:12) By patiently appealing to the heart, we may be able to help people to reject falsehood and embrace the truth that can set them free.—John 8:32.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 14

Song 126

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!*

15 min: Do You Have "Freeness of Speech"? Talk based on the May 15, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 13-16. Emphasize the importance of preaching with boldness.

20 min: "Live With Jehovah's Day in Mind."* Point out unique features of the publication. Review the schedule for the book study and the instructions found on page 3 of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage all to be regular in attendance and have a full share in commenting. Briefly interview one or two publishers who are known for preparing well for the meetings, and ask them what motivates them to do so.

Song 147

Week Starting July 21

Song 95

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind audience to bring the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August *Awake!* to the Service Meeting next week and to be prepared to discuss appropriate presentations for the local territory.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Preparation—A Key to Effective Return Visits."* Include a four-minute soliloquy of a publisher preparing for his return visits. He reviews his records and determines that he needs to call on two individuals this weekend. Then, for each of the two, he considers what he discussed in the past, determines his objective, and prepares how to accomplish his objective. For one, he prepares to offer a Bible study. For the other, he prepares to cultivate the interest by using a suggestion from paragraph 5.

Song 189

Week Starting July 28

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for July. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Mention the literature offer for August, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Maintaining Our Sense of Urgency. Enthusiastic talk based on the December 15, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 18-19, paragraphs 17-21.

20 min: Prepare to Offer the Current Magazines. Audience discussion. After giving a brief overview of the August *Awake!* and the August 1 *Watchtower,* ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to mention specific points in articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? Using one of the sample presentations from *Our Kingdom Ministry* or a presentation suggested by the audience, demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

Song 106

Week Starting August 4

Song 222

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Are Your Children Prepared for Their Unique Territory? Talk and audience discussion. Outline some of the challenges Christian youths face at school. Explain how parents and their children may use the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to locate helpful information. Give some examples. (See main heading "Schools," subheading "experiences.") Invite those in the audience who were raised in Christian households to comment on how their parents prepared them to face challenges and apply Bible principles at school. They may also mention school reports they prepared on subjects found in *Awake!* Have them explain how working their unique territory served as a protection.

20 min: "We Are Overturning Strongly Entrenched Things."* Invite audience to comment on how their Bible teacher patiently helped them to let go of strongly held false religious beliefs.

Song 83

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	**462**	**106.2**	**59.5**	**43.0**	**4.4**
Pios.	**110,027**	**68.3**	**32.9**	**20.4**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**119,479**	**49.1**	**25.2**	**10.2**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**843,657**	**10.9**	**7.1**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,073,625**			Baptized:	**1,499**
Bermuda					
Pios.	**69**	**71.1**	**29.7**	**23.8**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**31**	**49.7**	**22.6**	**17.1**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**353**	**12.0**	**8.3**	**4.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**453**			Baptized:	**2**
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	**2**	**127.0**	**79.0**	**83.0**	**10.0**
Pios.	**19**	**77.6**	**33.2**	**32.2**	**6.8**
Aux. Pios.	**31**	**52.8**	**22.4**	**15.2**	**3.5**
Pubs.	**140**	**14.5**	**8.3**	**4.8**	**1.0**
TOTAL	**192**				

We are pleased to report a new peak in the number of hours reported in the United States! The 22,662,367 hours spent in the ministry is an increase of 1,518,024 over the previous peak of 21,144,343 in April 2000.

Also, we are happy to report five new peaks in the Turks and Caicos Islands! The total of 192 publishers reporting is an increase of 6 over the previous peak of 186 in January 2008. The total of 31 auxiliary pioneers reporting is an increase of 12 over the previous peak of 19 in April 1992. The 5,400 hours spent in the ministry is an increase of 1,519 over the previous peak of 3,881 in January 2008. Also, the total of 1,922 return visits is an increase of 64 over the previous peak of 1,858 in April of 1995. In addition, the total of 402 Bible studies is an increase of 25 over the previous peak of 377 in October 2007.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* If the congregation does not have this brochure in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If the congregation does not have this book in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present and discuss the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with a view to starting a Bible study.

■ Since August has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Walk in the Way of Integrity."

■ The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch office, so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ The annual inventory of all literature on hand should be taken on or as close as possible to August 31, 2008. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator. The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation should verify the quantities for accuracy. *Please submit your inventory via the jw.org Web site no later than September 6.* Additional information will be forthcoming.

■ The *Bible Teach* book should be used to start and conduct Bible studies rather than the *Require* brochure. The *Require* brochure may continue to be placed in the field ministry until supplies are depleted.

Live With Jehovah's Day in Mind

Study schedule for the weeks of August 4, 2008, through February 16, 2009

WEEK STARTING	CHAPTER	PARAGRAPHS
Aug. 4	1*	1-19
Aug. 11	2	1-12
Aug. 18	2	13-22
Aug. 25	3	1-11
Sept. 1	3	12-22
Sept. 8	4*	1-10
Sept. 15	4	11-22
Sept. 22	5	1-10
Sept. 29	5	11-23
Oct. 6	6	1-14
Oct. 13	6	15-24
Oct. 20	7	1-15
Oct. 27	7	16-26
Nov. 3	8*	1-10
Nov. 10	8	11-24
Nov. 17	9	1-12
Nov. 24	9	13-24
Dec. 1	10	1-13
Dec. 8	10	14-25
Dec. 15	11*	1-10
Dec. 22	11	11-22
Dec. 29	12	1-10
2009		
Jan. 5	12	11-22
Jan. 12	13	1-6
Jan. 19	13	7-14
Jan. 26	13	15-22
Feb. 2	14	1-9
Feb. 9	14	10-17
Feb. 16	14	18-26

* Include introduction to section.

Each chapter, beginning with chapter 2, contains two teaching boxes. One teaching box should be considered each week with the corresponding main text.

Preparation—A Key to Effective Return Visits

[1] Jesus thoroughly prepared his disciples to be effective preachers of "the good news of the kingdom." (Matt. 4:23; 9:35) The training took place in the confined area of Palestine. However, before ascending to heaven, Jesus made it known that the Christian ministry would be widely expanded so as to "make disciples of people of all the nations."—Matt. 28:19, 20.

[2] That work would involve calling back on individuals who manifested interest in the good news of God's Kingdom and teaching them to observe all the things that Christ commanded. To make such effective return visits, we need to be well prepared.

[3] **Plan Ahead:** Some publishers endeavor to raise a question at the end of the initial call and then promise to return and discuss the answer. They have found that making reference to information in the *Bible Teach* book on the return visit has helped them lead right into a Bible study.

[4] Having just one set of magazines for each month does not mean that we should wait until we receive the next month's issues before calling back. It may be possible to stimulate interest by discussing information featured in the magazine the person already has.

[5] **Have an Objective:** Before going back, take a few minutes to review your records and to determine what you want to accomplish. For example, discuss a point from the publication you left previously. Or leave additional literature that relates to a prior conversation. If you raised a question the last time, your objective will surely include answering that question. When highlighting a scripture that establishes a point being made, endeavor to read directly from the Bible.

[6] **Our Goal:** Of course, our goal is to start a Bible study. One brother offered a Bible study on a return visit, but the man refused. The brother returned with the latest magazines and said, "While we are here, we are answering one Bible question for people today." After obtaining the man's comments, the brother read a scripture and an applicable paragraph from a publication used for Bible studies. That led to a regular Bible study.

[7] Taking the time to prepare for return visits is well worth the effort. Our joy will be increased, and we may have the privilege of assisting a "rightly disposed" one on the road to life.—Acts 13:48.

1. In what way was the early Christian ministry to be expanded?
2. What is involved in obeying Jesus' command 'to make disciples'?
3. Even on the initial call, how might you open the way for a return visit?
4. Why should we not delay making a return visit until we have new issues of the magazines?
5. Of what benefit is having an objective in mind?
6. What is our goal in making return visits?
7. How has being well prepared helped you to get a Bible study started?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® July 1

"Do you think it is possible for mere humans to have a close relationship with Almighty God? [Allow for response. Then read Acts 17:27.] This article discusses why we can be sure that God wants us to be close to him." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

Awake!® July

"Much of today's entertainment reflects a growing interest in the occult. Do you think involvement in the occult is harmless? [Allow for response. Then read Deuteronomy 18:10-12.] This article shows what the Bible says about the dangers of spiritism." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® Aug. 1

"Serious environmental issues are causing many to be pessimistic about the future of the earth. How do you feel about it? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 37:11.] This magazine highlights some Scriptural reasons for optimism."

Awake!® Aug.

"Many are convinced that global warming imperils life on our planet. How do you think this matter will be resolved? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 11:9.] This magazine explains why earth's continued existence as a home for humans is not in doubt."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2008 For United States of America *km08* 08-E Us Vol. 51, No. 8

New Special Assembly Day Program

The theme of the special assembly day program for the 2009 service year is "Keep Watching the Ministry . . . , That You Fulfill It," based on Colossians 4:17. As Christians, we take that exhortation seriously. Our aim is to fulfill our ministry faithfully, even as Jesus did. (John 17:4) The apostle Paul too set a sterling example for us in this regard. He was determined to finish his course in the ministry.—Acts 20:24.

The circuit overseer's part will show how various publishers are overcoming challenges in their ministry. Then the talk "Cultivate What You Have Planted" will highlight how we can truly help those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) The visiting speaker will first discuss 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, verse by verse, in the talk "How We Recommend Ourselves as Ministers." In the afternoon, he will address the audience on the theme "Highly Esteem Your Ministry." You will no doubt draw encouragement from the parts "Young and Old Enjoy the Ministry" and "Youths Who Fulfill the Ministry." Those who wish to symbolize their dedication by water baptism at one of the upcoming circuit events should inform the presiding overseer as soon as possible. A feature of all our assemblies and conventions is consideration of *The Watchtower*. Bring your copy to be studied the week of the special assembly day.

In watching that we fulfill our ministry, we strive to make sure that other interests and activities do not overshadow what Jehovah has entrusted to us. The Scriptural encouragement provided by means of this special assembly day program should help all of us to appreciate what we need to do to maintain the right focus and to take stock of our ministry with a view to accomplishing it fully.

New Circuit Assembly Program

How is it possible to stand firm against those who fiercely oppose true worship? How can we defeat the forces that constantly try to pull us back into the ungodly world? The circuit assembly program for the 2009 service year will answer these vital questions. The theme is "Keep Conquering the Evil With the Good." (Rom. 12:21) Consider what is in store.

The district overseer will deliver the talks "Fortified to Conquer the Evil With the Good," "Beware of Overconfidence!," "All Evil Soon to End!," and "Strengthening Our Faith to Conquer the World." The circuit overseer will address us on the themes "Now Is the Season to Stay Awake!," based on Romans 13:11-13, and "Do Not Show Yourself Discouraged in the Day of Distress," based on Proverbs 24:10. We also look forward to the circuit overseer's part "Giving Attention to the Needs of the Circuit." Another stirring feature will be the part "Can You 'Be at This Ministry'—By Pioneering?" The first of two symposiums is entitled "Stand Firm Against the Devil's Crafty Acts." It will help us to identify and reject the sly machinations of the Devil in the fields of technology, entertainment, and education. The symposium "Acquire Power to Resist in This Wicked Day" will show us how to apply more fully the inspired counsel found at Ephesians 6:10-18.

There is a direct connection between conquering evil at its source and preaching the Kingdom message. (Rev. 12:17) No wonder Satan relentlessly attacks Jehovah's Witnesses! (Isa. 43:10, 12) But the Devil will fail miserably because we are determined to "keep conquering the evil with the good." Make definite arrangements to benefit fully from all four sessions of this circuit assembly.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 11

Song 63

10 min: Local announcements. Ask the audience to comment on articles in the current magazines that they have found to be appealing to people in the territory. Invite audience to mention specific points in the articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? Arrange demonstrations showing how suggested presentations might be used.

15 min: Do the Will of God —Without Distraction. Talk based on *"Come Be My Follower,"* pages 93-94, paragraphs 12-13.

20 min: "Are You Using It to the Full?"* Interview a publisher who had an experience using one of the new features of the public edition of *The Watchtower*. The experience may be reenacted. Also, based on paragraph 2, demonstrate how a study may be started using the feature "What We Learn From Jesus," in the August 1 *Watchtower*.

Song 26

Week Starting August 18

Song 135

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Discuss "New Circuit Assembly Program." Announce the date of the next circuit assembly if available. Remind audience to bring the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September *Awake!* to the Service Meeting next week and to be prepared to discuss how these may be offered in the local territory.

20 min: Our Dress and Grooming Honors Jehovah. Talk by an elder. Because Jehovah is a holy God, physical cleanness is a priority among his people. (Ex. 30:17-21; 40:30-32) By our exemplary dress and grooming, especially in our ministry, we please Jehovah and bring him glory. (1 Pet. 2:12) On the other hand, failure to do so could cause 'the word of God to be spoken of abusively.' (Titus 2:5) Relate local or published experiences showing how the exemplary appearance of a publisher resulted in a witness.

15 min: Youths Who Give a Powerful Witness. Encouraging talk for parents and their children who will be returning to school shortly. Remind young ones to take advantage of opportunities to give a witness. As time permits, invite the audience to relate personal experiences of witnessing while at school.

Song 61

Week Starting August 25

Song 24

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Discuss "New Special Assembly Day Program," and announce the date of the next special assembly day if it is known.

15 min: Local needs.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September *Awake!* Audience discussion. Give a brief overview of the magazines, and ask the audience which articles may have appeal in the local territory. What question and scripture could be used to introduce the subject? Demonstrate how a sample presentation from *Our Kingdom Ministry* might be used. Have one of the elders demonstrate a brief presentation that he has prepared based on an article that would fit the local territory.

Song 196

Week Starting September 1

Song 112

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August.

20 min: Isolated but Not Forgotten. Talk based on the April 15, 2008, *Watchtower*, pages 25-28. Mention any Christians in the congregation who are living in local nursing homes. If none, use the principles in the article to encourage the congregation to support any who are infirm or otherwise limited in ability to participate in congregation activity.

15 min: Start a Bible Study on the Initial Call During September. Audience discussion. During September we will offer the *Bible Teach* book and endeavor to discuss a few paragraphs with the householder on the initial visit. Review the suggestions in the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert and have one or two demonstrations showing how to start a Bible study on the initial call.

Song 74

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	509	106.8	65.2	42.0	4.3
Pios.	109,263	64.9	36.8	19.9	2.1
Aux. Pios.	51,231	48.9	32.8	11.8	1.1
Pubs.	896,070	9.8	7.6	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,057,073			Baptized:	2,952
Bermuda					
Pios.	69	67.2	33.8	22.4	2.3
Aux. Pios.	26	51.0	27.8	13.4	1.2
Pubs.	372	9.5	8.7	3.8	0.4
TOTAL	467				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	2	107.5	54.5	58.0	10.5
Pios.	19	69.3	30.0	35.3	7.7
Aux. Pios.	7	47.9	29.1	31.4	6.4
Pubs.	156	11.8	7.8	4.4	1.1
TOTAL	184			Baptized:	5

We are pleased to report a new peak in the number of Bible studies reported in the United States! The total of 622,714 Bible studies is an increase of 1,568 over the previous peak of 621,146 set in April 1992.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If the congregation does not have this book in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. If that is not possible, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present and discuss the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with a view to starting a Bible study. **November:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2009 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily —2009,* and the *2009 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-23 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ To assist blind and visually impaired publishers and interested persons who use Braille notetakers or computers with screen readers, a provision has been made to supply electronic files of transcribed Braille text of *The Watchtower* for personal use. Available files include public and study editions of *The Watchtower* in Grade 2, or contracted, English Braille and study editions of *The Watchtower* in Grade 1, or noncontracted, French and Spanish Braille. The files will be sent by e-mail to those requesting them. Those desiring to receive Braille text files of *The Watchtower* should ask the congregation secretary to send a letter to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, Attention: Braille Desk. The letter should contain the person's name and home address, the name or type of electronic device used, his e-mail address, and whether he reads English, Spanish, or French Braille. If he cannot receive e-mail, the e-mail address of someone who can receive and transfer files to him should be given.

■ On August 28-30, 2008, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Wallkill Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 25, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 7 through August 25, 2008.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we demonstrate reasonableness when sharing the truth with others? (Phil. 4:5) [*be* p. 251 par. 3]
2. How might Paul's example when speaking to the Greeks at the Areopagus help us when we are witnessing to those who do not recognize the Bible as an authority? (Acts 17:22, 23) [*be* p. 252 pars. 1-2]
3. Even though we may be convinced that the person we are speaking with is wrong, how can we demonstrate reasonableness in dealing with him? [*be* p. 253 pars. 1-2]
4. As we endeavor to speak persuasively, what should we keep in mind? [*be* p. 255 par. 3, box]
5. How can we use discernment when seeking to reach the heart of a listener? (Prov. 20:5) [*be* p. 258 pars. 1-5]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What should sisters keep in mind when working with a setting? [*be* p. 44 pars. 5-6]
7. What should brothers seek to accomplish as they present Bible highlights? (Neh. 8:8) [*be* p. 47 pars. 2-3]
8. How should a brother handle an assignment on the Service Meeting that calls for a demonstration or an interview? [*be* p. 49 par. 5]
9. How does the book of Acts highlight the manner and extent to which the witness is to be given? (Acts 20:20, 21; 28:23) [*si* p. 204 par. 35]
10. What can a public speaker do to ensure that the Bible is the basis of his talk? (Acts 17:2, 3) [*be* p. 52 par. 6–p. 53 par. 2]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why did the Philippian jailer want "to do away with himself"? (Acts 16:25-27) [*w90* 5/15 p. 25, box]
12. How did Aristarchus and Gaius react to persecution? (Acts 19:29; 20:4, 5) [*w08* 2/15 p. 10 pars. 16-17]
13. What did it mean that Saul was "kicking against the goads"? (Acts 26:14) [*w03* 10/1 p. 32]
14. How could 'sin receive an inducement' through God's commandment to Israel? (Rom. 7:8, 11) [*w08* 6/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of Romans"]
15. How do we "heap fiery coals" upon an enemy's head? (Rom. 12:20) [*w08* 6/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Book of Romans"]

Are You Using It to the Full?

[1] "I can't wait to use it in the field!" That is what one sister wrote after reading *The Watchtower* of January 1, 2008. Have you considered some of the regular features of the public edition, and have you found ways to make good use of them in your field ministry?

[2] **"What We Learn From Jesus":** Perhaps you have found this feature to be helpful in starting Bible studies. If you have not done so already, try reading the title of the article to the householder and then call attention to what Jesus said about the matter, as related in the first paragraph. When initial interest is shown, endeavor to continue the discussion by using the subheadings, which are set out as thought-provoking questions. Invite the person to comment on the question. Briefly explain any related pictures, and move on to the next paragraph. You may be able to cover the first half of the article on the initial call and then discuss the second half when you return. Be prepared to continue the study in the *Bible Teach* book.

[3] **"Keys to Family Happiness":** This series, appearing every three months, is intended to help husbands, wives, and parents to see how to apply Bible principles when dealing with problems that threaten family peace. You can also use these articles to help non-Witnesses to see the wisdom found in the Bible.—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

[4] **Features for Young Ones:** The series "For Our Young People" provides an interactive outline that can be used to explore a specific Bible account. You can use these articles to help youths you meet in your ministry to see the practical value of studying God's Word. (Ps. 119:9, 105) When speaking to parents, you might highlight the "Teach Your Children" series, which appears every other month. These articles can help younger children to learn important lessons from Bible characters. Have you made it a point to read these articles with your children?

[5] **Other Features:** Each month, the feature "Our Readers Ask" considers a question that non-Witnesses are likely to raise. You might highlight this article when offering the magazines from house to house. The feature "A Letter From . . ." is a vivid first-person report showing the challenges that missionaries and others face in carrying out their ministry. These articles can help interested ones to see that the good news is being preached earth wide, in fulfillment of the sign of Christ's presence.—Matt. 24:3, 14.

[6] The monthly feature "Draw Close to God," which is based on the Bible reading for the Theocratic Ministry School, may move sincere ones to want to learn more about Jehovah. The series "Imitate Their Faith," which appears four times a year, is designed to help people visualize Bible accounts, making Bible characters—their choices, their challenges, their faith—come to life for modern readers.

[7] How delighted we are to receive each month an entire issue of *The Watchtower* that is designed for use in the field! By all means, let us become thoroughly familiar with its content and use it to the full in our ministry.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Aug. 1

"Do you agree that obeying this command of Jesus would add to happiness within the family? [Read John 13:34. Allow for response.] This article shows how Jesus' teachings and example apply to each member of the family." Feature the article on pages 16 and 17.

Awake!® Aug.

"Do you think that human governments will successfully address the issue of global warming? [Allow for response. Then read Jeremiah 10:23.] You will enjoy this article. It highlights God's solution to the problems that threaten our planet."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Sept. 1

"Most people are familiar with Jesus' words at Matthew 6:9. [Read.] Yet, many find it difficult to feel close to God as a Father. How do you think we can draw close to God? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers various attributes of our heavenly Father and how we can truly get to know him."

Awake!® Sept.

"Down through the centuries, debates have raged over the concept of life after death. What are your thoughts? [Allow for response.] Notice the belief expressed by Job. [Read Job 14:14, 15.] These articles present the Bible's view of life after death."

OUR KINGDOM [redacted]RY

September 2008 For United States of America *km08* 09-E Us Vol. 51, No. 9

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

An announcement presented during morning worship on Monday, February 4, 2008, brought enthusiastic applause. It read: "Over the past weekend, presiding overseers have arrived from various congregations throughout the United States. They are now at Patterson to attend the first class of the School for Congregation Elders."

Students enjoy upbuilding association with the Bethel family. They also attend morning worship each day, as well as the Bethel family *Watchtower* Study on Monday evening. A highlight of the school occurs on the last day when special lectures are delivered by a member of the United States Branch Committee and a member of the Governing Body.

Many expressions of appreciation have been received from the elders who have attended. One brother commented: "Being at Bethel for a week was so encouraging!" Another wrote: "I now feel heartened to fulfill my responsibilities with a renewed sense of zeal." The present curriculum covers various aspects of the responsibilities of presiding overseers and will enable them to serve the needs of the congregation more effectively. (Acts 20:28) We rejoice in this loving provision and look forward to meeting the brothers who have yet to attend.

Your brothers,

United States Branch Office

Special Tract Campaign October 20–November 16!

[1] Beginning on Monday, October 20, and continuing for four full weeks, we will engage in a special distribution of a new tract entitled *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* It is hoped that this earth-wide special campaign will generate increased interest in the only source of truth.—John 17:17.

[2] The tract gives concise Bible answers to six important questions: "Does God really care about us?" "Will war and suffering ever end?" "What happens to us when we die?" "Is there any hope for the dead?" "How can I pray and be heard by God?" and "How can I find happiness in life?" The churches of Christendom have never supplied satisfying answers to these questions. Even many who do not profess to be Christian have wondered about such matters, but they may not be aware that clear answers are found in the Bible. Therefore, this message should have wide appeal.

[3] **Cover Your Territory:** Endeavor to cover as much of your house-to-house territory as possible. If you have a large territory, the elders may encourage you to leave a copy of the tract at not-at-homes on the first call. Remember to give a copy to neighbors, relatives, acquaintances at work or school, and others you speak with on a regular basis. Perhaps you can arrange your affairs to auxiliary pioneer in October or November. Do you have a child or a Bible student who is making good spiritual progress and who may qualify to join us in this campaign as an unbaptized publisher? If so, inform the elders.

[4] **What to Say:** In order to reach more people with the message, it is best to keep your presentation brief. Simply ask householders one of the six questions on the cover and direct them to the answer in the tract. This will allow for all publishers to adapt their presentation to the needs of the territory. If someone indicates interest, make a note of it and call back. On weekends, the current magazines may be offered along with the tract. After the campaign ends on November 16, we will offer the *Bible Teach* book. Any remaining tracts will be used in the same way as other available tracts.

[5] **Start a Bible Study:** This tract has been specifically designed to help us start Bible studies. When making a return visit on someone who showed interest, you might ask which Bible truth brought him comfort or relief? Call attention to the back page where our Bible study arrangement is mentioned, and hand him a copy of the *Bible Teach* book. If possible, briefly consider a paragraph or two from the chapter that has more information on the subject that he selected.

[6] Jehovah is looking for those who will worship him "with spirit and truth." (John 4:23) May all of us share in this special campaign to help others come to know the truth!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 8

Song 204

10 min: Local announcements. Ask the audience which articles of the current magazines have had more appeal in the local territory. Ask them to relate which questions and scriptures they have used to introduce the articles. Demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

15 min: Help Bible Students to Become Teachers. Talk based on the January 15, 2007, *Watchtower,* pages 29-30, paragraphs 14-20. Include a brief demonstration showing a publisher describing the public talk and *Watchtower* Study to a new Bible student and inviting him to attend.

20 min: Coping With Prejudice in Our Ministry. Talk by elder, based on published information on how prejudice may affect our ministry. Explain how such prejudice may be overcome. At times our own conduct, both in the field ministry and as we go about other activities of life, can do much to overcome the prejudice of observers and open their minds to the truth. So it is vital to watch our speech and conduct at all times. (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1, 2) Relate a few selected local or published experiences that illustrate how prejudice may be overcome.

Song 127

Week Starting September 15

Song 94

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk and audience discussion by the service overseer or other qualified elder. Review the congregation's activity in the ministry during the past service year, focusing on the good things that were accomplished. Give appropriate commendation. Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to relate any outstanding experiences they enjoyed. Mention a point or two that the congregation can work on during the coming year, and consider practical suggestions for improvement.

15 min: How Can I Defend My Belief in Creation? Talk based on published information. Invite the audience to comment on how they have defended their belief in creation while in school, at work, or elsewhere. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 51

Week Starting September 22

Song 104

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Discuss the branch letter, which appears on page 1.

20 min: There Exists a Reward for Your Activity. Talk based on the April 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* from page 28, paragraph 5, to the end of page 29. Include a brief interview of one or two zealous publishers regarding how Jehovah provided them with needed material or emotional support.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October *Awake!* Give a brief overview of the magazines, and ask the audience which articles may have more appeal in the local territory. What questions and scriptures could be used to introduce the articles? Demonstrate how a sample presentation from *Our Kingdom Ministry* might be used. Have one of the elders demonstrate a brief presentation that he has prepared based on an article that would fit the local territory.

Song 190

Week Starting September 29

Song 45

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to relate upbuilding experiences they had while witnessing informally in connection with the district convention, during a vacation, or on other occasions during the summer months.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Special Tract Campaign October 20–November 16!"* If the tracts are available, distribute a copy to everyone in the audience. Briefly review the contents of the tract when considering paragraph 2. When considering paragraph 4, demonstrate how the tract may be placed. When considering paragraph 5, have a demonstration showing a publisher using the tract to start a Bible study when making a return visit.

Song 9

Week Starting October 6

Song 15

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Question Box. Audience discussion. Include comments on the June 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 20-22, paragraphs 10-16.

20 min: "Teach Others to Love Jehovah."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 132

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	**558**	**106.5**	**66.5**	**40.6**	**4.2**
Pios.	**108,962**	**65.0**	**37.0**	**19.8**	**2.1**
Aux. Pios.	**42,540**	**49.6**	**32.9**	**12.1**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**910,963**	**10.1**	**7.9**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,063,023**			Baptized:	**3,086**
Bermuda					
Pios.	**67**	**66.1**	**31.4**	**21.5**	**2.5**
Aux. Pios.	**16**	**51.9**	**26.6**	**19.4**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**375**	**10.3**	**8.7**	**4.2**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**458**				
Turks & Caicos					
Pios.	**20**	**64.7**	**30.4**	**28.6**	**7.2**
Aux. Pios.	**6**	**52.5**	**47.8**	**29.8**	**6.2**
Pubs.	**162**	**13.8**	**9.2**	**4.9**	**1.2**
TOTAL	**188**				

We are pleased to report a new peak in the number of Bible studies reported in the United States! The total of 628,699 Bible studies is an increase of 5,985 over the previous peak of 622,714 set in April 2008.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October 1-19:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present and discuss the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with a view to starting a Bible study. **October 20–November 16:** Special campaign distribution of the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **November 17-30:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If individuals say they have children, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.*

■ Since November has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The special public talk for the 2009 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 20, 2009. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 20.

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2008, *Watch Tower Publications Index 2008,* and *Watchtower Library —2008 Edition* on CD-ROM with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please note that *Watchtower Library—2008 Edition* is a provision for members of the congregation and is made available only through the congregation. Publishers who make extensive use of *Watchtower Library* and no longer use bound volumes should consider whether they need to request the bound volumes.

■ Someone designated by the presiding overseer should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of June, July, and August. The same person should not be used for consecutive audits. When the audit is complete, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (TO-33) and *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (TO-34) are to be completed each September. Copies of the completed forms should be promptly provided to the body of elders for each congregation that meets in the Kingdom Hall as well as to the Regional Building Committee. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review both work sheets.

■ If you are admitted to a hospital and want visiting local elders and, in larger cities, elders serving on a Patient Visitation Group to have access to your name, what must you do? When identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you should also explain that you are willing to have a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses visit you. A federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protects your privacy, but with your consent, the law allows for the elders to learn of your admission and provide spiritual encouragement.

QUESTION BOX

■ May both parents report the time used for the regular family study?

Although fathers have the primary responsibility of bringing their children up "in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah," both parents share in training their children. (Eph. 6:4) The Bible encourages children: "Listen, my son, to the discipline of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother." (Prov. 1:8) One important aspect of parental training is the family Bible study.

In the past, only the parent *conducting* a family study with unbaptized children would report the time, even when both parents were involved in the discussion. However, this is being adjusted. If during the family study both parents share together in teaching the children, then both may count a maximum of one hour a week as field service. Of course, parents generally spend much more than one hour a week teaching their children. Training children involves constant effort on the part of both parents. (Deut. 6:6-9) However, the monthly field service report should reflect primarily what is being accomplished in the *field.* Therefore, no more than one hour a week is to be counted, even if the study lasts longer than an hour, is conducted more than once a week, or separate studies are conducted with the children. Only one parent would report the family Bible study and up to one return visit each week that the study was conducted.

Teach Others to Love Jehovah

[1] Do you recall the first time you heard of Jehovah? What was it that drew you to him? Many honesthearted people will tell you that they were drawn close to our Creator on gaining knowledge of his matchless qualities, especially his compassion and love.—1 John 4:8.

[2] **"This Is Our God":** The *Bible Teach* book underscores Jehovah's love and the need to have a personal relationship with him. How can we use this publication to teach others to grow in their love for God? When focusing on a new point, we could ask heart-searching questions, such as: "What does this truth reveal about Jehovah?" or "In what way does this point give evidence that Jehovah is the best Father anyone could want?" Teaching in this way can help the student begin a lifelong relationship with Jehovah.

[3] When we help Bible students appreciate what a privilege it is to be taking in knowledge of the only true and living God, they will come to acknowledge, as in the words of Isaiah, "this is our God." (Isa. 25:9) When explaining God's Word, we need to emphasize how mankind will be blessed by the fulfillment of Jehovah's purposes through his royal government under Christ Jesus.—Isa. 9:6, 7.

[4] **Evidence of Love for Jehovah:** We know that loving Jehovah with one's whole heart, soul, and mind involves more than simply having strong feelings toward God. We must come to adopt and adhere to his way of thinking. (Ps. 97:10) Love for God is made manifest by strictly obeying his commandments and continuing to engage in "holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion," even in the face of trials and opposition. —2 Pet. 3:11; 2 John 6.

[5] Doing God's will out of love for him is a pleasure. (Ps. 40:8) The Bible student must come to appreciate that all of God's commandments are designed for the everlasting good of His servants. (Deut. 10:12, 13) By living in harmony with Jehovah's guidance, a person demonstrates deep appreciation for all His wonderful works. Help the student to understand that walking in Jehovah's righteous ways will spare a person much pain and heartache.

[6] **Blessings for Those Who Love God:** Jehovah cares deeply for humble ones who love him, and he reveals to them "the deep things of God." (1 Cor. 2:9, 10) With such knowledge of Jehovah's purposes, they have a clear view of the future and a sure hope. (Jer. 29:11) Those who love Jehovah become recipients of his extraordinary kindness. (Ex. 20:6) They cherish the hope of everlasting life because of God's great love for them.—John 3:16.

[7] The more we come to know about our heavenly Father, the more we have to share with others. (Matt. 13:52) What an inestimable privilege it is to teach others, and especially our children, to love Jehovah! (Deut. 6: 5-7) May we, along with our Bible students, continually bubble over with praise as we experience the 'abundance of Jehovah's goodness.'—Ps. 145:7.

1. What draws some to Jehovah?
2, 3. How can we use the *Bible Teach* book to help Bible students to grow in their love for Jehovah?
4, 5. What does love of Jehovah mean?
6. What blessings may one receive for loving Jehovah?
7. How do you feel about teaching others to love Jehovah?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Sept. 1

"Where do you think we can turn for reliable advice when facing important decisions? [Allow for response. Read Proverbs 3: 5, 6.] This article stresses the divine wisdom of considering the consequences prior to making decisions." Highlight article on page 8.

Awake!® Sept.

"Do you think that God intended for humans to suffer from the food shortages devastating the earth today? [Allow for response.] Notice his purpose to resolve this issue. [Read Psalm 72:16.] This article explains how God will restore Paradise to the earth." Feature article on page 7.

THE WATCHTOWER® Oct. 1

"In these unstable times, many are anxious about the future. What helps you to maintain a positive outlook? [Allow for response.] Notice this Bible promise. [Read Isaiah 65:17.] This magazine offers valid reasons to be optimistic about the future."

Awake!® Oct.

"The Internet is a useful tool, but it presents unique dangers to children. How do you think we can protect them? [Allow for response.] Please note this thought. [Read and apply Proverbs 18:1.] This is one of six Bible principles that this article highlights to help parents protect their children." Feature article on page 8.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2008 For United States of America *km08* 10-E Us Vol. 51, No. 10

New Congregation Meeting Schedule

[1] During the week of April 21-27, 2008, the worldwide brotherhood heard an exciting announcement. "Commencing January 1, 2009, the Congregation Book Study will be held at the same time as the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting. The name of the Congregation Book Study will be changed to Congregation Bible Study."

[2] **Schedule for This Weekly Meeting:** The total time for this meeting, including the songs and prayers, will be 1 hour and 45 minutes. The meeting will begin with song and prayer (5 min.), followed by the Congregation Bible Study (25 min.). The Theocratic Ministry School (30 min.) will follow directly thereafter. Then, a song (5 min.) introduces the Service Meeting (35 min.). The meeting concludes with song and prayer (5 min.). To assist you in preparing for these meetings, the schedule for the Congregation Bible Study, the Theocratic Ministry School, and the Service Meeting will be published month by month in *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

[3] **Congregation Bible Study:** This meeting will be patterned after the *Watchtower* Study. There will be no need to begin with a review of the previous week's material. Rather, the meeting should have only a very brief introduction. This will allow sufficient time for all present to give brief comments. The presiding overseer will supervise the assigning of elders to take turns conducting this meeting, a different elder each week.

[4] **Service Meeting:** The Service Meeting will remain the same but with shorter parts. Announcements will usually take five minutes. This should be sufficient time for essential announcements and certain letters from the branch. Such announcements as field service arrangements, cleaning schedules, accounts reports, and routine letters from the branch office do not need to be read from the platform but will be posted on the information board for the brothers to read. Those with assigned program parts should prepare well and adhere closely to the time allotted and to the instructions provided.

[5] **Circuit Overseer's Visit:** The circuit overseer's weekly schedule will not be adjusted. On Tuesday the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting will be held followed by a song. Then the circuit overseer will give a 30-minute talk. As is currently done during the week of his visit, another evening will be designated for the Congregation Bible Study followed by a song and the circuit overseer's service talk. The meeting will close with a song and prayer.

[6] **Meetings for Field Service:** Group overseers will be assigned by the body of elders to care for field service groups and shepherd the individuals making up the group. When a ministerial servant is needed to fill that role, he should be designated as the "group servant."

[7] As outlined, we will have the opportunity to enjoy an instructive, upbuilding evening of spiritual banqueting. This will enable us to be effective preachers and teachers, trained for a more fruitful ministry.—Eph. 4:13, 14; 2 Tim. 3:17.

[8] Studying in advance for these meetings will help us focus clearly on the main points highlighted during each meeting. We will all have opportunity to share in commenting, contributing to a fine interchange of encouragement. (Rom. 1:11, 12; Heb. 10:24) Our aim should be to 'make our advancement manifest' by "handling the word of the truth aright."—1 Tim. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:15.

[9] We rejoice in this significant change of our congregation meetings. May we all keep on availing ourselves of the guidance that "the faithful and discreet slave" provides and stay close to our Great Shepherd as he prepares us for the great "tribulation" now on the horizon.—Matt. 24:21, 45; Heb. 13:20, 21; Rev. 7:14.

1, 2. What changes to the meetings will take place beginning in January 2009?
3. How will the Congregation Bible Study be conducted?
4. To what extent will the Service Meeting change?
5. During the week of the circuit overseer's visit, what will be the congregation meeting schedule?
6. What is the role of the group overseer?
7. What can we anticipate with our new congregation meeting schedule?
8. How will advance individual preparation benefit us as well as others?
9. What is our resolve, and why?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 13

Song 174

10 min: Local announcements. Outline local arrangements for the special tract campaign to begin on October 20, and encourage all to pick up a supply of tracts if they have not already done so. Briefly review the sample presentations for the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October *Awake!* found on page 8. Since many publishers have been offering these magazines for a few weeks, invite those in the audience to relate an experience they have had.

35 min: "New Congregation Meeting Schedule."* As time permits, read cited scriptures and invite audience to comment on them.

Song 216

Week Starting October 20

Song 113

5 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: Maintain Joy in the Ministry. Encouraging talk based on material from paragraphs 11-17 on pages 24-25 of *The Watchtower* of July 1, 2005. Include an interview of one or two longtime faithful servants of Jehovah. What has enabled them to maintain joy when people are unresponsive?

20 min: Prepare to Offer the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!* After giving a brief overview of the magazines, ask the audience which articles they think might be of special interest to many people in the local territory. Have them relate why. Invite the audience to suggest an appropriate question that they plan to use to start a conversation and a scripture from the article to use before offering the magazines. Speaker concludes by demonstrating how each magazine might be offered, using the sample presentations on page 8 or another presentation designed to appeal to people in the local territory.

Song 148

Week Starting October 27

Song 30

5 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments.

10 min: Local needs.

30 min: "Personal and Family Bible Study Are Vital!"* As time permits, read cited scriptures and invite audience to comment on them.

Song 142

Week Starting November 3

Song 100

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October.

20 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2009. The school overseer discusses with audience the new Theocratic Ministry School as outlined under "Instructions" in the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule insert. Focus on adjustments being made. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling assignments, in preparing to comment on Bible highlights, and in applying the comments given weekly by the school overseer based on *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.*

15 min: Enhance Your "Art of Teaching." Service overseer or other qualified elder identifies and comments briefly on five key factors involved in effective teaching as set forth in paragraphs 5-18 on pages 9-12 of the January 15, 2008, *Watchtower.* Interview one or two publishers who feel that this information has helped them improve their teaching ability.

Song 91

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	533	107.6	56.8	40.8	4.4
Pios.	107,061	62.2	33.9	19.0	2.1
Aux. Pios.	37,000	49.5	29.5	11.3	1.1
Pubs.	895,436	9.9	7.5	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,040,030			Baptized:	4,677
Bermuda					
Pios.	70	65.7	33.4	21.1	2.4
Aux. Pios.	10	43.9	20.2	12.1	1.7
Pubs.	372	10.2	9.1	4.2	0.4
TOTAL	452				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	2	120.0	55.0	63.0	10.0
Pios.	17	75.8	26.8	29.8	6.5
Aux. Pios.	12	56.6	28.8	14.5	3.8
Pubs.	146	12.2	7.3	5.2	1.1
TOTAL	177				

We are happy to report a new peak in the number of regular pioneers in Bermuda! The total of 70 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of one over the previous peak of 69 set in February 2008.

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2008

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2008 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* [*be*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [*rs*].

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as outlined below. After each part, the school overseer will introduce the next part.

SPEECH QUALITY: 5 minutes. The school overseer, the auxiliary counselor, or another qualified elder will discuss a speech quality based on the *Ministry School* textbook. (In congregations with a limited number of elders, qualified ministerial servants may be used.)

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 10 minutes. This should be handled by a qualified elder or ministerial servant, and it will be based on *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* It is to be delivered as a ten-minute instruction talk. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. It is expected that brothers assigned this talk will be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first five minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should apply the material in a way that will be beneficial to the congregation. He may comment on any portion of the assigned Bible reading for the week. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. The principal objective is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value. The speaker should be careful not to exceed the five minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that five minutes are set aside for audience participation. The audience should be invited to offer *brief* comments (30 seconds or less) on what they have appreciated in the Bible reading and its benefits. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 4 minutes or less. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. Sisters receiving this assignment either will be assigned a setting or will select one from the list appearing on page 82 of the *Ministry School* textbook. The student should use the assigned theme and apply it to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the local territory. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in our publications. Newer students should be given assignments for which references are supplied. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the householder to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The student should develop the assigned theme. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in our publications. When assigned to a brother, this part should be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should always be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. The school overseer may give a brother Assignment No. 4 whenever he sees fit to do so. Please note that themes with an asterisk next to them should always be assigned to brothers to develop as talks. If there are more than enough elders and ministerial servants in your congregation to handle the various parts on the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, then it is preferred that themes with asterisks be assigned to an elder or a ministerial servant whenever possible.

COUNSEL: 1 minute. The school overseer will not announce in advance the speech quality that a student is working on. After Assignments No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4, the school overseer will offer positive observations on an aspect of the talk that was commendable. His aim is not simply to say "well done" but, rather, to draw attention to specific reasons why that aspect of the presentation was effective. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling the opening talk on a speech quality, Assignment No. 1, or highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

COUNSEL FORM: In textbook.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: The body of elders may select a capable elder, if one is available in addition to the school overseer, to handle the assignment as auxiliary counselor. If there are a number of elders in the congregation, then a different qualified elder may care for this assignment each year. The auxiliary counselor's responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to brothers who present Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights. It is not necessary that he offer counsel after each of such talks by fellow elders or by ministerial servants.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW: 30 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct a review. It will be preceded by the consideration of a speech quality and highlights from the Bible reading as outlined above. The review will be based on material considered in the school during the preceding two months, including the current week. If your congregation has a circuit assembly during the week of the Theocratic Ministry School Review, then the review (and the rest of the weekly schedule) should be postponed one week and the subsequent week's schedule should be used one week early. If the circuit overseer will be visiting your congregation during the week of a review, then the song, the speech quality talk, and Bible highlights should be presented as scheduled. The instruction talk (given after the speech quality talk) should be drawn from the following week's schedule. The Theocratic Ministry School for the next week will proceed with the speech quality talk and Bible highlights as scheduled, followed by the review.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 7 Bible reading: Matthew 1-6 **Song 62**
Speech Quality: Providing Needed Explanation (*be* p. 228 ¶2-3)
No. 1: Introduction to Matthew (*si* pp. 175-7 ¶1-10)
No. 2: Matthew 5:1-20
No. 3: Why Do Humans Die? (*rs* pp. 98-9 ¶6)
No. 4: Ways in Which God's Holy Spirit Helps Us

Jan. 14 Bible reading: Matthew 7-11 **Song 224**
Speech Quality: How the Heart Is Involved (*be* p. 228 ¶4–p. 229 ¶1)
No. 1: Take Delight in God's Word (*be* p. 9 ¶1-5)
No. 2: Matthew 10:1-23
No. 3: Why It Pays to Be Honest
No. 4: Where Are the Dead, and What Is Their Condition? (*rs* p. 99 ¶7–p. 101 ¶4)

Jan. 21 Bible reading: Matthew 12-15 **Song 133**
Speech Quality: Informative to Your Audience (*be* p. 230 ¶1-6)
No. 1: Read the Bible Daily (*be* p. 10 ¶1–p. 12 ¶4)
No. 2: Matthew 14:1-22
No. 3: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Not Share in Traditional Mourning Customs? (*rs* p. 102 ¶1–p. 103 ¶2)
No. 4: What or Who Is the Antichrist?

Jan. 28 Bible reading: Matthew 16-21 **Song 176**
Speech Quality: Making a Talk Informative Through Research (*be* p. 231 ¶1-3)
No. 1: "Pay Attention to How You Listen" (*be* p. 13 ¶1–p. 14 ¶5)
No. 2: Matthew 17:1-20
No. 3: Responding to Incorrect Viewpoints About Death (*rs* p. 103 ¶3–p. 104 ¶1)
No. 4: Things That Christians Hold Sacred

Feb. 4 Bible reading: Matthew 22-25 **Song 151**
Speech Quality: Explaining Scriptures (*be* p. 231 ¶4-5)
No. 1: Listening at Meetings and Assemblies (*be* p. 15 ¶1–p. 16 ¶5)
No. 2: Matthew 23:1-24
No. 3: Everlasting Life Will Not Be Boring
No. 4: Dreams—Inspired and Otherwise (*rs* pp. 104-6 ¶3)

Feb. 11 Bible reading: Matthew 26-28 **Song 110**
Speech Quality: Explaining the Meaning of Terms (*be* p. 232 ¶1)
No. 1: Matthew—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 180-1 ¶29-33)
No. 2: Matthew 27:1-22
No. 3: Why Exercising Faith Is More Than Just Believing
No. 4: Drugs—When Forbidden to Christians (*rs* pp. 106-8 ¶1)

Feb. 18 Bible reading: Mark 1-4 **Song 167**
Speech Quality: Reasoning on Texts (*be* p. 232 ¶2-4)
No. 1: Introduction to Mark (*si* pp. 181-3 ¶1-11)
No. 2: Mark 2:1-17
No. 3: Why Christians Avoid Marijuana (*rs* p. 108 ¶2–p. 109 ¶2)
No. 4: How Love Strengthens Courage

Feb. 25 Bible reading: Mark 5-8 **Song 72**
Speech Quality: Choosing Information That Will Benefit Your Audience (*be* p. 233 ¶1-5)
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Mar. 3 Bible reading: Mark 9-12 **Song 195**
Speech Quality: Use of Assigned Material (*be* p. 234 ¶1–p. 235 ¶3)
No. 1: You Can Improve Your Memory (*be* p. 17 ¶1–p. 19 ¶1)
No. 2: Mark 11:1-18
No. 3: Why God Cannot Lie
No. 4: Why Christians Avoid Tobacco (*rs* p. 109 ¶3–p. 111 ¶3)

Mar. 10 Bible reading: Mark 13-16 **Song 87**
Speech Quality: Effective Use of Questions (*be* p. 236 ¶1-5)
No. 1: Mark—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 186 ¶31-3)
No. 2: Mark 14:1-21
No. 3: Overcoming Bad Habits—How? (*rs* p. 111 ¶4–p. 112 ¶3)
No. 4: Why "Man's Wrath Does Not Work Out God's Righteousness" (Jas. 1:20)

Mar. 17 Bible reading: Luke 1-3 **Song 13**
Speech Quality: Questions to Introduce Important Thoughts (*be* p. 237 ¶1-2)
No. 1: Introduction to Luke (*si* pp. 187-8 ¶1-9)
No. 2: Luke 1:1-23
No. 3: Why "Faith Apart From Works Is Inactive" (Jas. 2:20)
No. 4: Nations Will Not Frustrate God's Purpose Regarding Earth (*rs* pp. 112-13 ¶5)

Mar. 24 Bible reading: Luke 4-6 **Song 156**
Speech Quality: Questions to Reason on a Subject (*be* p. 237 ¶3–p. 238 ¶2)
No. 1: The Role of God's Spirit in Remembering (*be* p. 19 ¶2–p. 20 ¶3)
No. 2: Luke 4:1-21
No. 3: Will Jehovah Destroy the Earth by Fire? (*rs* p. 113 ¶6–p. 115 ¶1)
No. 4: The Fear of God Can Restrain Us From Sinning

Mar. 31 Bible reading: Luke 7-9 **Song 122**
Speech Quality: Questions to Draw Out Inner Feelings (*be* p. 238 ¶3-5)
No. 1: Why Apply Yourself to Reading? (*be* p. 21 ¶1–p. 23 ¶3)
No. 2: Luke 7:1-17
No. 3: Evidence That God Loves Us and Wants Us to Be Happy
No. 4: Members of New Jerusalem Are Not to Return to Earth After Wicked Are Destroyed (*rs* p. 115 ¶2–p. 116 ¶1)

Apr. 7 Bible reading: Luke 10-12 **Song 68**
Speech Quality: Questions to Add Emphasis (*be* p. 239 ¶1-2)
No. 1: How to Apply Yourself to Reading (*be* p. 23 ¶4–p. 26 ¶5)
No. 2: Luke 11:37-54
No. 3: Has God's Purpose for the Earth Changed? (*rs* p. 116 ¶2–p. 117 ¶2)
No. 4: How Are We to Understand Revelation 17:17?

Apr. 14 Bible reading: Luke 13-17 **Song 86**
Speech Quality: Questions to Expose Wrong Thinking (*be* p. 239 ¶3-5)
No. 1: How to Study (*be* p. 27 ¶1–p. 31 ¶2)
No. 2: Luke 16:1-15
No. 3: What God's Law on Gleaning Teaches Us (Lev. 19:9, 10)
No. 4: How Can We Encourage Sick Ones? (*rs* pp. 117-18 ¶1)

Apr. 21 Bible reading: Luke 18-21 **Song 182**
Speech Quality: Similes and Metaphors That Teach (*be* p. 240 ¶1–p. 241 ¶1)
No. 1: Luke—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 192-3 ¶30-5)
No. 2: Luke 18:1-17
No. 3: How We Can Encourage Bereaved Ones (*rs* p. 118 ¶2-6)
No. 4: What It Means to 'Keep Free From Murmurings' (Phil. 2:14)

Apr. 28 Bible reading: Luke 22-24 **Song 218**
Speech Quality: Using Examples (*be* p. 241 ¶2-4)
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May 5 Bible reading: John 1-4 **Song 31**
Speech Quality: Examples in Scripture (*be* p. 242 ¶1-2)
No. 1: Introduction to John (*si* pp. 193-5 ¶1-9)
No. 2: John 3:1-21
No. 3: What We Learn From David's Refusal to Have King Saul Killed
No. 4: Encouragement for Those Persecuted for Doing God's Will (*rs* p. 118 ¶7–p. 119 ¶4)

May 12 Bible reading: John 5-7 **Song 150**
Speech Quality: Will It Be Understood? (*be* p. 242 ¶3–p. 243 ¶1)
No. 1: Study Is Rewarding (*be* p. 31 ¶3–p. 32 ¶4)
No. 2: John 6:1-21
No. 3: What the Account About Ananias and Sapphira Teaches Us
No. 4: How Can You Encourage Those Disheartened by Injustices? (*rs* p. 119 ¶5–p. 120 ¶2)

May 19 Bible reading: John 8-11 **Song 102**
Speech Quality: Illustrations From Familiar Situations (*be* p. 244 ¶1-2)
No. 1: How to Do Research With the Bible (*be* p. 33 ¶1–p. 35 ¶2)
No. 2: John 11:38-57
No. 3: What Encouragement for Those Pressed by Economic Problems? (*rs* p. 120 ¶3-7)
No. 4: Since It Was Not Possible to Enforce the Tenth Commandment, Why Was It Given?

May 26 Bible reading: John 12-16 **Song 3**
Speech Quality: Illustrations Appropriate for Your Audience (*be* p. 244 ¶3–p. 245 ¶4)
No. 1: Learning to Use Other Research Tools (*be* p. 35 ¶3–p. 38 ¶4)
No. 2: John 12:1-19
No. 3: Encouragement for Those Disheartened by Shortcomings (*rs* p. 120 ¶8–p. 121 ¶3)
No. 4: How We Throw Our Burden Upon Jehovah (Ps. 55:22)

June 2 Bible reading: John 17-21 **Song 198**
Speech Quality: Effective Use of Visual Aids (*be* p. 247 ¶1-2)
No. 1: John—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 198-9 ¶30-5)
No. 2: John 21:1-14
No. 3: Why Believe in God, Whom We Cannot See?
No. 4: Evolution—A Scientific Dilemma (*rs* pp. 121-3 ¶1)

June 9 Bible reading: Acts 1-4 **Song 92**
Speech Quality: How Jesus Employed Visual Aids (*be* p. 247 ¶3)
No. 1: Introduction to Acts (*si* pp. 199-200 ¶1-8)
No. 2: Acts 1:1-14
No. 3: Evolution, the Fossil Record, and Reasonableness (*rs* p. 123 ¶2–p. 126 ¶2)
No. 4: What Does "Freeness of Speech" Involve? (Heb. 3:6)

June 16 Bible reading: Acts 5-7 **Song 2**
Speech Quality: Ways to Employ Visual Aids (*be* p. 248 ¶1-3)
No. 1: Making an Outline (*be* pp. 39-42)
No. 2: Acts 5:1-16
No. 3: Responding to Assertions by Evolutionists (*rs* p. 126 ¶3–p. 128 ¶3)
No. 4: Why Is the Fear of Jehovah the Beginning of Wisdom? (Ps. 111:10)

June 23 Bible reading: Acts 8-10 **Song 116**
Speech Quality: Using Maps, Printed Assembly Programs, and Videos (*be* p. 248 ¶4–p. 249 ¶2)
No. 1: Preparing Student Assignments for the School (*be* p. 43 ¶1–p. 44 ¶3)
No. 2: Acts 8:1-17
No. 3: How Jesus Will "Deliver the Poor One" (Ps. 72:12)
No. 4: Why Many People Lack Faith (*rs* pp. 129-30 ¶2)

June 30 Bible reading: Acts 11-14 **Song 79**
Speech Quality: Using Visual Aids for Larger Groups (*be* p. 249 ¶3–p. 250 ¶1)
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July 7 Bible reading: Acts 15-17 **Song 203**
Speech Quality: Why a Reasoning Manner Is Important (*be* p. 251 ¶1-3)
No. 1: Working With a Subject and a Setting (*be* p. 44 ¶4–p. 46 ¶2)
No. 2: Acts 16:1-15
No. 3: Reasons for Serving Jehovah Fearlessly
No. 4: How Can a Person Acquire Faith? (*rs* p. 130 ¶3–p. 131 ¶3)

July 14 Bible reading: Acts 18-21 **Song 32**
Speech Quality: Where to Begin (*be* p. 251 ¶4–p. 252 ¶3)
No. 1: Preparing Talks for the Congregation (*be* p. 47 ¶1–p. 49 ¶1)
No. 2: Acts 20:1-16
No. 3: Faith in Prospect of Righteous New System Proved by Works (*rs* p. 131 ¶5–p. 132 ¶2)
No. 4: What Can We Learn From the Prohibition Found at Exodus 23:19b?

July 21 Bible reading: Acts 22-25 **Song 200**
Speech Quality: When to Yield (*be* p. 252 ¶4–p. 253 ¶2)
No. 1: Preparing Service Meeting Parts and Other Talks (*be* p. 49 ¶2–p. 51 ¶2)
No. 2: Acts 22:1-16
No. 3: In What Ways Do Jehovah's Witnesses Fulfill John 13: 34, 35?
No. 4: How Can False Prophets Be Identified? (*rs* pp. 132-4 ¶2)

July 28 Bible reading: Acts 26-28 **Song 29**
Speech Quality: Asking Questions and Giving Reasons (*be* p. 253 ¶3–p. 254 ¶2)
No. 1: Acts—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 204-5 ¶32-40)
No. 2: Acts 26:1-18
No. 3: True Prophets Did Not Always Understand How and When Things Foretold Would Happen (*rs* p. 134 ¶3-8)
No. 4: Why Jehovah Shows Patience

Aug. 4 Bible reading: Romans 1-4 **Song 170**
Speech Quality: Sound Arguments Based Firmly on God's Word (*be* p. 255 ¶1–p. 256 ¶2)
No. 1: Introduction to Romans (*si* pp. 205-6 ¶1-7)
No. 2: Romans 3:1-20
No. 3: How Angels Protect and Strengthen God's Servants
No. 4: Jehovah's Witnesses Promote True Worship (*rs* p. 135 ¶1-2)

Aug. 11 Bible reading: Romans 5-8 **Song 207**
Speech Quality: Support Arguments by Corroborative Evidence (*be* p. 256 ¶3-5)
No. 1: Preparing Discourses for the Public (*be* p. 52 ¶1–p. 54 ¶1)
No. 2: Romans 6:1-20
No. 3: Jehovah's Witnesses Identified by Fruits Produced (*rs* p. 135 ¶3–p. 137 ¶1)
No. 4: How Righteousness Can Protect Us

Aug. 18 Bible reading: Romans 9-12 **Song 152**
Speech Quality: Presenting Sufficient Evidence (*be* p. 256 ¶6–p. 257 ¶3)
No. 1: Romans—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 208-9 ¶20-5)
No. 2: Romans 9:1-18
No. 3: What Are the Dangers of Gossiping and Spreading Rumors?
No. 4: Responding to Those Who Call Us False Prophets (*rs* p. 137 ¶2-4)

Aug. 25 Bible reading: Romans 13-16 **Song 16**
Speech Quality: Effort to Reach the Heart (*be* p. 258 ¶1-5)
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Sept. 1 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1-9 **Song 199**
Speech Quality: Drawing People Out (*be* p. 259 ¶1-3)
No. 1: Introduction to 1 Corinthians (*si* pp. 210-11 ¶1-7)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 4:1-17
No. 3: God Does Not Predestinate When Each Person Will Die (*rs* p. 138 ¶1-3)
No. 4: Is Having Material Riches Evidence of God's Blessing?

Sept. 8 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 10-16 Song 35
Speech Quality: Stirring Up Beneficial Feelings (*be* p. 259 ¶4–p. 260 ¶1)
No. 1: 1 Corinthians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 213-14 ¶23-6)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 13:1–14:6
No. 3: Why Doers of the Word Are Happy
No. 4: Not Everything That Happens Is God's Will (*rs* p. 139 ¶1–p. 140 ¶2)

Sept. 15 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 1-7 Song 58
Speech Quality: Helping Others to Cultivate Godly Fear (*be* p. 260 ¶2-3)
No. 1: Introduction to 2 Corinthians (*si* p. 214 ¶1-4)
No. 2: 2 Corinthians 1:1-14
No. 3: God Does Not Foreknow and Foreordain Everything (*rs* p. 140 ¶3-5)
No. 4: Why True Christians Rejoice When Persecuted

Sept. 22 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8-13 Song 12
Speech Quality: Our Conduct Matters to God (*be* p. 260 ¶4–p. 261 ¶1)
No. 1: 2 Corinthians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 216-17 ¶18-20)
No. 2: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
No. 3: Why True Christians Are No Part of the World
No. 4: God's Ability to Foreknow and Foreordain Events (*rs* p. 141 ¶1-4)

Sept. 29 Bible reading: Galatians 1-6 Song 163
Speech Quality: Helping Others to Make an Examination (*be* p. 261 ¶2-4)
No. 1: Introduction to Galatians and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 217-20 ¶1-6, 14-18)
No. 2: Galatians 1:1-17
No. 3: Why God Did Not Exercise His Foreknowledge Regarding Adam (*rs* p. 142 ¶1-3)
No. 4: How Love Can Conquer Fear of Man

Oct. 6 Bible reading: Ephesians 1-6 Song 99
Speech Quality: Promoting Heartfelt Obedience (*be* p. 262 ¶1-4)
No. 1: Introduction to Ephesians and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 220-3 ¶1-8, 16-19)
No. 2: Ephesians 3:1-19
No. 3: It Is Not a Sign of Weakness to Apologize
No. 4: God Did Not Predestinate Jacob, Esau, or Judas (*rs* p. 142 ¶4–p. 143 ¶2)

Oct. 13 Bible reading: Philippians 1–Colossians 4 Song 123
Speech Quality: Cooperating With Jehovah in Reaching People's Hearts (*be* p. 262 ¶5)
No. 1: Introduction to Philippians and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 223-5 ¶1-7, 12-14)
No. 2: Philippians 3:1-16
No. 3: In What Way Was the Christian Congregation Predestinated? (*rs* p. 143 ¶3–p. 144 ¶1)
No. 4: * Colossians—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 228 ¶12-14)

Oct. 20 Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 1–2 Thessalonians 3 Song 161
Speech Quality: Achieving Good Timing (*be* p. 263 ¶1–p. 264 ¶4)
No. 1: Introduction to 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 229-31 ¶1-5, 13-15; pp. 232-3 ¶1-4, 10-11)
No. 2: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–2:8
No. 3: What Is the Scriptural View of Astrology? (*rs* p. 144 ¶2–p. 145 ¶2)
No. 4: * 1 and 2 Timothy—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 236-7 ¶15-19; pp. 238-9 ¶10-12)

Oct. 27 Bible reading: 1 Timothy 1–2 Timothy 4 Song 69
Speech Quality: Effective Exhortation (*be* p. 265 ¶1-3)
Theocratic Ministry School Review

Nov. 3 Bible reading: Titus 1–Philemon Song 149
Speech Quality: Exhorting on the Basis of Love (*be* p. 266 ¶1-4)
No. 1: Introduction to Titus and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 239-41 ¶1-4, 8-10)
No. 2: Titus 1:1-16
No. 3: What Are Some Sound Reasons for Believing in God? (*rs* pp. 145-6 ¶5)
No. 4: * Philemon—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 242-3 ¶7-10)

Nov. 10 Bible reading: Hebrews 1-8 Song 144
Speech Quality: Exhortation Rooted in Scripture (*be* p. 267 ¶1-2)
No. 1: Introduction to Hebrews (*si* pp. 243-4 ¶1-9)
No. 2: Hebrews 3:1-19
No. 3: Wickedness and Suffering Do Not Disprove God's Existence (*rs* p. 146 ¶6–p. 147 ¶1)
No. 4: The Differences Between True and False Humility

Nov. 17 Bible reading: Hebrews 9-13 Song 28
Speech Quality: Having Freeness of Speech (*be* p. 267 ¶3-4)
No. 1: Hebrews—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 247 ¶23-7)
No. 2: Hebrews 10:1-17
No. 3: God Is a Real Person With Feelings (*rs* p. 147 ¶2–p. 148 ¶3)
No. 4: How Forgiveness Promotes Unity

Nov. 24 Bible reading: James 1-5 Song 88
Speech Quality: Why It Is Important to Be Encouraging (*be* p. 268 ¶1-3)
No. 1: Introduction to James and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 248-50 ¶1-7, 15-17)
No. 2: James 1:1-21
No. 3: God Had No Beginning (*rs* p. 148 ¶4-7)
No. 4: How "Mercy Exults Triumphantly Over Judgment" (Jas. 2:13)

Dec. 1 Bible reading: 1 Peter 1–2 Peter 3 Song 18
Speech Quality: Calling to Mind What Jehovah Has Done (*be* p. 268 ¶4–p. 269 ¶2)
No. 1: Introduction to 1 Peter and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 251-3 ¶1-5, 11-13)
No. 2: 1 Peter 2:1-17
No. 3: Use of God's Name Essential for Salvation (*rs* p. 149 ¶1-4)
No. 4: * 2 Peter—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 255 ¶8-10)

Dec. 8 Bible reading: 1 John 1–Jude Song 50
Speech Quality: Showing How Jehovah Has Helped His People (*be* p. 269 ¶3-5)
No. 1: Introduction to 1, 2, and 3 John and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 256-8 ¶1-5, 11-13; p. 259 ¶1-3, 5; pp. 260-1 ¶1-3, 5)
No. 2: 1 John 4:1-16
No. 3: Are All Religions Good? (*rs* p. 149 ¶5-8)
No. 4: * Jude—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 262-3 ¶8-10)

Dec. 15 Bible reading: Revelation 1-6 Song 219
Speech Quality: Showing Delight in What God Is Doing Now (*be* p. 270 ¶1–p. 271 ¶2)
No. 1: Introduction to Revelation (*si* pp. 263-4 ¶1-6)
No. 2: Revelation 3:1-13
No. 3: What Kind of "God" Is Jesus? (*rs* p. 150 ¶1-2)
No. 4: Why Patience and Mercy Have Limits

Dec. 22 Bible reading: Revelation 7-14 Song 21
Speech Quality: Benefit Fully From the Theocratic Ministry School (*be* p. 5 ¶1–p. 8 ¶1)
No. 1: Revelation—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 268-9 ¶28-34)
No. 2: Revelation 8:1-13
No. 3: Responding to Objections About Belief in God (*rs* p. 150 ¶3–p. 151 ¶3)
No. 4: What Is Meant by the Phrase "God Is Greater Than Our Hearts"? (1 John 3:20)

Dec. 29 Bible reading: Revelation 15-22 Song 60
Speech Quality: Accurate Reading (*be* p. 83 ¶1-5)
Theocratic Ministry School Review

* Assign to brothers only, preferably elders or ministerial servants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October 1-19:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present and discuss the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with a view to starting a Bible study. **October 20–November 16:** Special campaign distribution of the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **November 17-30:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If individuals say they have children, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January 2009:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1992 with the exception of *Creation, Greatest Man, Mankind's Search for God,* and *Young People Ask.*

■ Since November has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Note to presiding overseer and Theocratic Ministry School overseer: The new congregation meeting schedule begins the week of December 29, 2008, and this adjusted schedule will be noted as such in the December 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* When conducting the Theocratic Ministry School Review for that week, be sure to adhere to the instructions under Theocratic Ministry School Review in the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2009. There will be *no* consideration of a speech quality on that evening.

■ The video program *No Blood —Medicine Meets the Challenge* will be considered at a Service Meeting in January. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 27, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 1 through October 27, 2008.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we find out why other people believe as they do? [*be* p. 259 pars. 1, 2]
2. How might we help a person to remove prejudice or hatred from his heart? [*be* p. 260 par. 2]
3. How might we assist our students to examine their own heart with a view to continued spiritual growth? [*be* p. 261 par. 3]
4. What should we bear in mind as we strive to reach the heart of our listeners? [*be* p. 262 par. 5]
5. Why should we give attention to timing at congregation meetings? [*be* p. 263 pars. 1, 3, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What moved Paul to write his first letter to the Corinthians? [*si* p. 210 par. 3]
7. What were some of the reasons for Paul's writing his second letter to the Corinthians? [*si* p. 214 pars. 1-2]
8. What view should Christians have of the ministry? [*si* pp. 216-217 par. 18]
9. How can we today, like the brothers at Philippi, gain God's approval and become a joy to our brothers? [*si* p. 225 par. 12]
10. What positive effects did Paul and his companions have on the congregation in Thessalonica? [*si* p. 231 par. 13]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What does it mean to "hand [the wicked] man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, in order that the spirit may be saved"? (1 Cor. 5:5) [*w08* 7/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Letters to the Corinthians"]
12. How "often" is Jesus' death to be commemorated, and "until" when? (1 Cor. 11:26) [*w08* 7/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Letters to the Corinthians"]
13. What vision does 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 mention, and who likely had it? [*w04* 10/15 p. 8 par. 4; p. 10 par. 9]
14. Why did Paul liken the Law of Moses to a "tutor leading to Christ"? (Gal. 3:24) [*w08* 3/1 pp. 18-21]
15. What did Paul mean when he prayed that "the spirit and soul and body of you brothers be preserved"? (1 Thess. 5:23) [*w08* 9/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Letters to the Thessalonians and to Timothy"]

Personal and Family Bible Study Are Vital!

[1] As in the first century, the Governing Body has deep concern for the welfare of Jehovah's people. (Acts 15:6, 28) As the dark clouds of the great tribulation draw closer, it is vital that every Kingdom publisher have a solid relationship with Jehovah. How will you use the time previously allocated to the Congregation Book Study? All are encouraged to use this time for family worship. Wise use of this time will permit us to dig deeper into God's inspired Word and draw from its life-giving waters.—Ps. 1:1-3; Rom. 11:33, 34.

[2] **Family Worship Evening:** Family heads are encouraged to shoulder their responsibility before Jehovah to ensure that a meaningful, regular program of family Bible study is followed. (Deut. 6: 6, 7) Single brothers and sisters with no family responsibilities will be able to use this time for personal Bible study and research. It is vital for all of us to 'buy out the opportune time' for study and meditation in order to maintain the spiritual strength needed in the face of 'wicked days.' —Eph. 5:15, 16.

[3] **What to Consider:** The *Watch Tower Publications Index* or *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM can help you locate information that will make your Bible study periods a delight. Families may consider articles from *The Watchtower,* such as the regular features "Keys to Family Happiness," "Teach Your Children," and "For Our Young People." Also, *Awake!* contains the "Young People Ask" series and fascinating articles about the wonders of creation.

[4] Unhurried Bible reading can impress godly principles and lessons on the minds and hearts of all in the family. (Heb. 4:12) On other occasions, you might watch and discuss one of the videos produced by the organization. There is ample opportunity for ingenuity and creativity. Why not ask your family members what they would enjoy?

[5] **Why Important Now:** Strengthening our spirituality will prepare us to "stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah." (Ex. 14:13) Parents need divine guidance for raising children "in among a crooked and twisted generation." (Phil. 2:15) Children need help to deal with the deteriorating moral climate in schools today. (Prov. 22:3, 6) Couples do well to strengthen their "threefold cord" with Jehovah. (Eccl. 4:12) Let us, then, make wise use of the time remaining to build ourselves up on our "most holy faith"!—Jude 20.

1. What special concern does the Governing Body have for us at this time, and why so?
2. How might our personal family worship evening be arranged?
3, 4. What suggestions are offered as to material that we may use, and with what focus in mind?
5. Why is personal and family Bible study so important in our life now?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Oct. 1

"Experts recognize the importance of the father's role in family life. What do you think makes a good father? [Allow for response.] Jesus stressed how the example of his Father helped him. [Read John 5:19.] This article isolates six important aspects of a father's role." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

Awake!® — Oct.

"People of various religions have conflicting views about the true nature of God. But how did the Son of God describe Him? Notice Jesus' words at John 4: 24. [Read.] In just two pages, this article presents the Bible's viewpoint on the question, "What is the nature of God?" Feature the article on pages 24 and 25.

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Nov. 1

"Many people are unable to reconcile their belief in a loving God with the teaching of eternal torment. What are your thoughts? [Allow for response.] The Bible clearly teaches that God is not malicious or vindictive. [Read Ezekiel 18:23.] You will appreciate the Scriptural reasoning presented in this magazine."

Awake!® — Nov.

"People often associate success with fame, fortune, or power. How would you define success? [Allow for response.] Note what leads to success according to the Bible. [Read Psalm 1:1-3.] This article discusses six keys to success." Highlight the article that begins on page 6.

OUR KINGDOM M[redacted]Y

November 2008 For United States of America km08 11-E Us Vol. 51, No. 11

We Have Precious Treasures to Share

[1] God's Word abounds with spiritual treasures that we cherish. (Ps. 12:6; 119:11, 14) On a particular occasion, Jesus used illustrations depicting different aspects of the Kingdom, and then he asked his disciples: "Did you get the sense of all these things?" Upon receiving an affirmative reply, he said to them: "That being the case, every public instructor, when taught respecting the kingdom of the heavens, is like a man, a householder, who brings out of his treasure store things new and old."—Matt. 13:1-52.

[2] Bible truths that we learned when we first began studying can be viewed as old treasures. By means of our progressive personal study of the deeper things of God's Word, we find other Bible truths, which to us are newfound treasures. (1 Cor. 2:7) Also, through "the faithful and discreet slave," we come to understand new treasures.—Matt. 24:45.

[3] We highly esteem these spiritual treasures, old and new. This moves us to seek to receive training and gain experience as instructors of God's Word, generously sharing with others precious truths we have learned.

[4] **Learn From Jesus' Example:** Demonstrating how he felt about these treasures, Jesus went to great lengths to share them with others. Even when he was tired, he did not stop bringing treasures out of his "storehouse."—John 4:6-14.

[5] Jesus' love for those in a poor spiritual condition motivated him to share the life-giving treasures of God's truths. (Ps. 72:13) He felt pity for those with spiritual hunger and was moved to "teach them many things."—Mark 6:34.

[6] **Imitate Jesus:** When we highly esteem the treasures we have, we will, like Jesus, be eager to show people spiritual gems directly from the Bible. (Prov. 2:1-5) Although at times we may be tired, we will speak about Scriptural truths with heartfelt enthusiasm. (Mark 6:34) Our deep appreciation of the treasures we have will move us to extend ourselves in the ministry, always seeking to have a fuller share.

Prepare New Ones to Face Opposition

[1] When individuals begin studying the Bible and 'desire to live with godly devotion,' they become special targets of Satan. (2 Tim. 3:12) Opposition can come from workmates, schoolmates, or neighbors. It can be especially trying when well-meaning relatives oppose new ones.—Matt. 10:21; Mark 3:21.

[2] **Opposition Foretold:** New ones must understand that persecution is to be expected and that it is an indication of their becoming genuine disciples of Christ. (John 15:20) At times, opposition from others may be due to misconceptions about Jehovah's Witnesses. Keep in mind that great joy comes from being dishonored for being a follower of Jesus and for obeying God. (Acts 5:27-29, 40, 41) Assure new ones of Jehovah's loving support. (Ps. 27:10; Mark 10:29, 30) Maintaining their integrity puts them on Jehovah's side of the issue of universal sovereignty.—Prov. 27:11.

[3] **Role of Accurate Knowledge:** Impress upon your Bible students the importance of continuing to take in accurate knowledge despite the trials they may be facing. Through opposition, Satan tries to prevent what they are learning from taking root in their figurative heart. (Prov. 4:23; Luke 8:13) They must keep taking in accurate knowledge of God's Word so as to become firmly rooted in the faith.—Ps. 1:2, 3; Col. 2:6, 7.

[4] **Need for Endurance:** In any trialsome situation, endurance is essential and can produce fine results. (Luke 21:16-19) When new ones endure opposition, they benefit themselves and others. They experience Jehovah's ability to bless richly those who faithfully endure. —Jas. 1:12.

[5] The apostle Paul rejoiced in the spiritual progress of his brothers in Thessalonica. He thanked God for them, many of whom he had aided into the truth. (2 Thess. 1:3-5) We too can experience the same joy and satisfaction if we prepare our Bible students to face opposition and endure.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 10

Song 205

10 min: Local announcements. Include comments from the service overseer on the congregation's progress in covering the territory with the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* Since many publishers have already been offering the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!* invite audience to comment on how they have presented the magazines with good results.

15 min: Be Cultivating a Loving and Generous Spirit. Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2008, *Watchtower,* pages 6-7.

20 min: "We Have Precious Treasures to Share."* When considering paragraph 2, invite audience to comment on specific Bible truths that attracted them to Jehovah's organization or that they have come to appreciate more fully since their baptism.

Song 71

Week Starting November 17

Song 80

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Question Box.*

20 min: "You Can Be a Teacher!"* Interview a publisher or a pioneer who overcame feelings of inadequacy to conduct a Bible study. How did he rely on Jehovah for help? In what specific ways has the organization helped him to become qualified? What rewards has he experienced from sharing in the Bible study work?

Song 143

Week Starting November 24

Song 217

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Mention the literature offer for December, and have one or two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: Local needs.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!* Give a brief overview of the magazines, and ask the audience which articles may have more appeal in the local territory. What questions and scriptures could be used to introduce the articles? Demonstrate how a sample presentation from *Our Kingdom Ministry* might be used. Have one of the elders demonstrate a brief presentation that he has prepared based on an article that would fit the local territory.

Song 208

Week Starting December 1

Song 84

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November.

15 min: Local experiences. Inform the congregation how much of the territory was covered in the distribution of the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* Invite the audience to relate experiences enjoyed when distributing the tract or when using it to start Bible studies. Also relate encouraging experiences related to offering the *Bible Teach* book in November. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.

20 min: "Prepare New Ones to Face Opposition."* When considering paragraph 2, briefly consider how the information in the *Reasoning* book under "Jehovah's Witnesses" may help Bible students to answer questions from concerned relatives and friends.

Song 105

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	**564**	**105.7**	**55.0**	**40.3**	**4.2**
Pios.	**108,923**	**61.6**	**31.4**	**18.6**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**36,341**	**50.2**	**27.9**	**11.0**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**920,826**	**10.0**	**7.4**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,066,654**			Baptized:	**7,507**
Bermuda					
Pios.	**64**	**46.0**	**25.9**	**15.1**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**3**	**39.7**	**37.0**	**11.0**	**1.7**
Pubs.	**371**	**9.2**	**7.8**	**4.1**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**438**			Baptized:	**5**
Turks & Caicos					
Pios.	**21**	**49.6**	**17.4**	**23.4**	**6.0**
Aux. Pios.	**3**	**49.0**	**14.0**	**18.3**	**3.7**
Pubs.	**151**	**11.0**	**5.6**	**4.5**	**1.1**
TOTAL	**175**				

We are happy to report a new peak in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The total of 21 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of one over the previous peak of 20 set in December 2007.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November 1-16:** Special campaign distribution of the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **November 17-30:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If individuals say they have children, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1992 with the exception of *Creation, Greatest Man, Mankind's Search for God,* and *Young People Ask.* **February:** Offer one of the following, as available: *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Secret of Family Happiness,* or *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*

■ All publishers who have not yet completed a durable power of attorney (DPA) card are urged to do so. This DPA card protects your right to refuse blood transfusions. Elders will provide personal assistance as needed.—See the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

■ Effective January 1, 2009, the term "presiding overseer" will no longer be used. This assignment will now be designated "coordinator of the body of elders."

■ Beginning the week of February 23, 2009, we will study *"Keep Yourselves in God's Love"* at the Congregation Bible Study. Congregations should have on hand appropriate supplies of the regular and large-print editions at that time.

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are made by check at district conventions should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

QUESTION BOX

■ If a couple wish to use the Kingdom Hall for their wedding, what matters do they need to discuss with the elders?

Weddings that are arranged in accord with Bible principles bring honor to Jehovah. This is especially true with regard to weddings at the Kingdom Hall, since the community views programs held there as a reflection of our organization. So that "all things take place decently and by arrangement," it is proper for the local elders to be involved when the Kingdom Hall is requested for a wedding.—1 Cor. 14:40.

A couple wishing to use the Kingdom Hall for their wedding should submit a written request to the service committee of a congregation that meets at that hall. Their letter should be submitted well in advance and should indicate the date and time they wish to use the hall. They should keep in mind that the elders will not rearrange the meeting schedule to accommodate a wedding. In addition, the bride and the groom must be in good standing, living in harmony with Bible principles and Jehovah's righteous standards.

To make sure that the wedding reflects well on our dignified God, the couple should discuss the wedding arrangements with the service committee before they are finalized. Though the elders will not try to impose their personal preferences upon the couple, if anything objectionable is being planned, adjustments should be made. Only music selected from *Kingdom Melodies* or that is found in our songbook may be used. Any decoration of the Kingdom Hall or rearrangement of the chairs must also be approved. If photographs are being taken or video recordings are being made, this should not detract from the dignity of the occasion. The elders may permit a rehearsal at the Kingdom Hall as long as it does not interfere with other congregation arrangements. No invitations should be placed on the information board. However, the elders may have a brief announcement made during the Service Meeting to inform the congregation about the upcoming wedding at the Kingdom Hall.

Although it is not a requirement that all in the wedding party be baptized, it would not be appropriate to include in the wedding party individuals whose lifestyle grossly conflicts with Bible principles or whose conduct would raise questions in the minds of those attending. The wedding should be officiated by an appointed elder, if available. Elders are qualified teachers of God's Word, so they are most qualified to highlight the Scriptural principles that apply on this important occasion.—1 Tim. 3:2.

Since the wedding also reflects upon the elder who will perform the wedding, he too should be kept informed of the wedding arrangements. He will meet with the couple to inquire about their moral conduct during courtship; the couple will want to be open and honest with him. If either the bride or the groom was previously married, that one must establish that he or she is Scripturally and legally free to marry. (Matt. 19:9) This would include showing the elder a copy of the final divorce decree.

When the couple freely communicate and fully cooperate with the elders, the wedding will prove to be a happy occasion for all.—Prov. 15:22; Heb. 13:17.

You Can Be a Teacher!

[1] One of the most rewarding aspects of the ministry is teaching someone the truth. Seeing him respond to the Kingdom message and assisting him in drawing close to the Sovereign of the universe is an experience to be cherished. (Jas. 4:8) To teach someone who is hungering for truth and watch that one begin to make significant changes in his personality, outlook, and conduct should be a goal of every Kingdom publisher.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

[2] **Rely on Jehovah:** In times past, faithful servants questioned their qualifications to fulfill their commission. Reliance on Jehovah God enabled Moses, Jeremiah, Amos, and other ordinary people to overcome their own doubts or insecurities and carry out a significant work. (Ex. 4:10-12; Jer. 1: 6, 7; Amos 7:14, 15) The apostle Paul too "mustered up boldness," or literally, was "made outspoken." How? He revealed that it was "by means of our God." (1 Thess. 2:2, ftn.) Yes, all of us can trust in Jehovah to provide the help, wisdom, and strength we need to conduct productive Bible studies.—Isa. 41:10; 1 Cor. 1:26, 27; 1 Pet. 4:11.

[3] **Accept Training:** Our Grand Instructor, Jehovah God, provides training through a regular program of spiritual education so that we can become fully competent as teachers. (Isa. 54:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Accept this training by taking full advantage of opportunities to increase your understanding of the Scriptures and improve in your ability to teach Bible truths. While this is primarily the purpose of the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, all congregation meetings train us to teach from God's Word.

[4] Strive to learn simple ways to teach even deep spiritual truths. The *Ministry School* book, page 227, explains: "You must clearly understand your subject yourself if you are going to make it understandable to others." Commenting at meetings helps us to fix main points in our mind for future use. So prepare well, and your confidence in your ability to teach will grow.

[5] From the outset, Christian ministers no doubt learned from one another while engaging in the disciple-making work. (Luke 10:1) If possible, accompany experienced publishers, including pioneers, elders, and traveling overseers, in the Bible study work. Note how they utilize the simple illustrations and other teaching aids found in our study publications to explain Scriptural truths. Ask them for suggestions on how you can become a better teacher. (Prov. 1:5; 27:17) Appreciate all such training for what it is—training provided by God.—2 Cor. 3:5.

[6] Rely on Jehovah, and benefit from the training he provides. Make your advancement a matter of prayer. (Ps. 25:4, 5) You too can experience the joy of helping someone to become, like you, a teacher of God's Word!

1. What privileged opportunity is before every Kingdom publisher?
2. Why may some hold back from conducting a Bible study, and what will help them to overcome this problem?
3, 4. What training is in place to assist us in teaching God's Word?
5. What additional training do we have within the congregation to help us progress as teachers?
6. Essentially, what is needed to become a teacher of God's Word?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Nov. 1

"Do you think that if husbands and wives applied this Bible counsel, marital bonds would be strengthened? [Read Job 31:1. Then allow for response.] This article discusses Bible principles that can help couples maintain commitment to their marriage." Highlight the article that begins on page 18.

Awake!® Nov.

"Most people agree that the ocean's resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Do you think human governments will successfully address the problem? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 6:10.] This article examines some of the reasons for concern and highlights God's solution." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Dec. 1

"This time of year, many people are thinking about Jesus. What influence would you say that Jesus has had on you? [Allow for response.] The Bible encourages us to follow Jesus' example. [Read 1 Peter 2:21.] Doing that can make us a better, happier person. This magazine explains why."

Awake!® Dec.

"People have been pondering this question for centuries. [Point to the question on the cover.] Where do you think we can find a meaningful answer? [Allow for response.] Note why we can look to God for an answer. [Read Psalm 100:3.] This magazine shows what the Bible says on the subject."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2008 | For United States of America | *km08* 12-E Us | Vol. 51, No. 12

A Special Day for Offering Bible Studies

[1] Beginning in January, each congregation will designate one weekend every month, perhaps the first one, to concentrate on offering Bible studies. This would be either a Saturday or a Sunday, according to what is best locally. On that day if householders decline to accept such an offer, publishers may still offer the *Bible Teach* book or place the latest magazines. All elders and ministerial servants should arrange to have a full share in this activity and assist publishers to start Bible studies.

[2] The Congregation Service Committee will determine on which weekend a day will be set aside to offer Bible studies. Periodic reminders should be given so that publishers can prepare and put forth special effort to offer Bible studies from house to house and when visiting those who previously showed interest.

[3] **How to Prepare:** We can find suggestions for starting Bible studies in the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert and on page 12 of the *Reasoning* book. Some may choose to use a tract, such as *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* Also, page 3 of the August 2007 *Our Kingdom Ministry* gives suggestions for starting Bible studies when visiting those who accepted the magazines. Elders and ministerial servants will be scheduled to conduct a brief 10- to 15-minute meeting for field service, during which one or two practical suggestions for starting Bible studies should be discussed or demonstrated.

[4] Of course, not everyone will accept a Bible study or continue their study over an extended period. This should not cause us to hold back, since it is Jehovah who is drawing sheeplike ones to his organization. (John 6:44) Our responsibility is not just to sow seeds of truth but also to cultivate and water what has taken root, and that includes studying the Bible with righthearted ones. By so doing, we exercise the privilege of being God's fellow workers. —1 Cor. 3:9.

Preaching Requires Endurance

[1] For more than 30 years, the apostle Paul enjoyed a satisfying career as an evangelizer. As with any worthwhile endeavor, his preaching activity was not without its challenges. (2 Cor. 11:23-29) Yet, Paul did not give up. (2 Cor. 4:1) He understood that the strength to endure while fulfilling his ministry would come from Jehovah. (Phil. 4:13) In view of his example of faithful endurance, Paul could say: "Become imitators of me, even as I am of Christ." —1 Cor. 11:1.

[2] **Enduring Trials Today:** Each day, many of our brothers face ridicule, opposition, or indifference from family members, workmates, or schoolmates. (Matt. 10:35; John 15:20) Perhaps that is true in your case. On the other hand, you may be contending with a health problem, or you may have a daily struggle to block out distractions and temptations that test your faith and endurance. We can gain strength by considering the examples of faithful servants of old as well as those of fellow Christians today who have faced and overcome challenges.—1 Pet. 5:9.

[3] We can gain power for remaining firm in our ministry by making sure that we have "put on the complete suit of armor from God." (Eph. 6:10-13, 15) Prayer for endurance is also essential. God grants his holy spirit so that we can endure trials. (2 Cor. 6:4-7) To succeed in our spiritual warfare, we must heed God's reminders to renew our spirit. (Ps. 119:24, 85-88) Just as a child might read a personal letter from a loving father over and over, our daily Bible reading reinforces our bond with Jehovah. We gain wisdom to cope with trials through regular personal study, thus allowing God's thinking to influence our decisions and strengthen our integrity.—Prov. 2:10, 11.

[4] **Endurance Brings Blessings:** As was true in Paul's case, our faithful endurance while fulfilling our ministry results in making Jehovah's heart rejoice and in bringing blessings to us and to others. (Prov. 27:11) May we be determined to persevere in the ministry, thereby proving that our faith is durable and "of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being proved by fire."—1 Pet. 1:6, 7.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 8

Song 19

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review the sample presentations for the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!* found on page 8. Invite those in the audience who have had success placing these issues to relate how they presented them. What article, question, and scripture have they used?

15 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2009. Talk by the school overseer. Discuss points needing emphasis locally from the October 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Review the role of the auxiliary counselor. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating in Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.*

20 min: "Are You Using the *Reasoning* Book?"* When considering paragraph 4, have a pioneer or other qualified publisher briefly demonstrate how to use the *Reasoning* book in the door-to-door ministry to answer the question, 'Why don't Jehovah's Witnesses celebrate Christmas?'

Song 6

Week Starting December 15

Song 178

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

10 min: Use Repetition in the Ministry. Talk and audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 207. Briefly demonstrate one or two suggestions from the material.

25 min: "'Bear Thorough Witness' —By Apartment Witnessing."* To be handled by the service overseer or other elder. Make local application of the material.

Song 157

Week Starting December 22

Song 75

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Mention the literature offer for January, and have an elder demonstrate how this may be presented.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* Audience discussion. After giving a brief overview of the magazines, ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Using some of these articles, invite the audience to relate a question that they would use to start a conversation, then a scripture from the article that they would read before offering the magazines. Conclude by demonstrating how each magazine might be offered using the sample presentations on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory.

20 min: "A Special Day for Offering Bible Studies."* Announce which weekend in January the congregation will focus on starting Bible studies. Review the suggestions found in paragraph 3 and have one or two approaches demonstrated.

Song 133

Week Starting December 29

Song 60

Congregation Bible Study:

jd chap. 12 ¶1-10

Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Revelation 15-22

Theocratic Ministry School Review

Service Meeting:

Song 153

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Preaching Requires Endurance."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 155

Week Starting January 5

Song 35

Congregation Bible Study:

jd chap. 12 ¶11-22

Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Genesis 1-5

No. 1: Genesis 3:1-15

No. 2: Why Jesus Was a Great Teacher (*lr* chap. 1)

No. 3: What Is Not Vanity? (1 Cor. 15:58)

Service Meeting:

Song 98

Note: Information regarding the district convention should not be considered before the week of January 5. Congregations are not to move their meeting ahead that week unless the circuit overseer is visiting.

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Imitate Jesus' Attitude Toward the Ministry. Talk and audience discussion based on *"Come Be My Follower,"* pages 84-86, paragraphs 16-21.

20 min: "2009 District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Before considering the article, read the December 15, 2008, convention assignment letter. Stress the importance of displaying the fruitage of the spirit at all times.—Gal. 5:22, 23.

Song 114

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
United States					
Sp'l Pios.	**453**	**103.3**	**57.3**	**40.2**	**4.4**
Pios.	**109,692**	**55.2**	**29.0**	**17.1**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**35,059**	**49.1**	**30.0**	**11.4**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**960,585**	**9.8**	**7.6**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,105,789**			Baptized:	**4,278**
Bermuda					
Pios.	**70**	**34.9**	**21.6**	**11.6**	**1.6**
Aux. Pios.	**2**	**51.5**	**20.0**	**17.5**	**3.0**
Pubs.	**370**	**9.8**	**8.6**	**4.2**	**0.5**
TOTAL	**442**				
Turks & Caicos					
Sp'l Pios.	**2**	**123.5**	**55.0**	**74.0**	**10.5**
Pios.	**17**	**56.1**	**26.3**	**28.4**	**6.8**
Aux. Pios.	**7**	**62.0**	**16.3**	**17.0**	**6.0**
Pubs.	**169**	**13.8**	**8.4**	**4.8**	**1.1**
TOTAL	**195**				

We are pleased to report a new peak in the United States! The total of 1,105,789 publishers reporting is an increase of 21,784 over the previous peak of 1,084,005 set in August 2007.

We are happy to report a new peak in the Turks and Caicos Islands! The total of 195 publishers reporting is an increase of 3 over the previous peak of 192 set in March 2008.

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"Bear Thorough Witness"—By Apartment Witnessing

[1] Like the apostle Paul, our desire is to "bear thorough witness to the good news." (Acts 20:24) We therefore endeavor to reach as many in our territory as possible with the Kingdom message. This includes the large number of people who live in apartment buildings. At times, it can be a challenge to gain access to those living in such facilities. However, since apartments have a high concentration of people, they present many opportunities for us to spread the good news.

[2] In the face of the threat of crime and violence, a growing number of apartment buildings are locked and have doormen or surveillance cameras. (2 Tim. 3:1, 2) The management may have a policy that uninvited individuals are not allowed to enter. A superintendent or manager may be inclined to ask us to leave the premises, especially if one of the tenants complains. Therefore, being discreet and demonstrating good judgment are important.

[3] **When to Work:** As in other types of territory, it is best to preach in apartments when the residents are likely to be at home. Suspicion may arise if we are present when most tenants are away. Many publishers have been successful in finding people at home in the early evening as well as during Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Working apartments too early, especially on weekends, may result in complaints to the management.

[4] **Gaining Entrance:** Publishers should not contact the superintendent or any other apartment personnel *prior* to engaging in the ministry. If the locked building has an intercom outside the entrance, we can use it to find someone who agrees to let us in to speak with him. Depending upon the type of apartments, we may be able to make other door-to-door calls in the building after speaking with the person who permitted us to enter. In other cases, however, it would be wise to exit the building and use the intercom for contacting the next resident. We should use good judgment in deciding how many tenants we will contact in this way on the same occasion.

[5] Some tenants may prefer that you tell them the purpose of your visit over the intercom. If so, introduce yourself in a friendly manner. Use the householder's name if it is shown on the directory. In a concise way, mention your subject. Some have been successful by reading an introduction directly from the *Reasoning* book.

[6] If the building has a doorman who does not permit us to work the apartments, we can endeavor to witness to him. Many doormen enjoy reading our literature. We may even be able to start a Bible study and conduct it in the lobby. If the doorman permits us to visit a specific tenant who has demonstrated interest, it is usually best not to take the liberty of knocking on other doors in the building.

[7] **Appearance and Decorum:** Carrying large, bulky briefcases can make us conspicuous. Therefore, we may consider using a more discreet case or none at all. Some publishers put the featured literature in a slim portfolio and carry their Bible in their hand or pocket.

[8] It is best not to congregate in large groups, especially in lobbies or parking lots, as this will draw unnecessary attention. Appropriate precautions should be taken when preaching in apartments that are in high-crime areas. (Prov. 22:3) For example, two or three pairs of publishers might work on the same floor within earshot of each other, perhaps taking turns knocking at the door while the others wait.

[9] When entering an apartment building, wipe your shoes and close the door securely behind you. By showing such courtesy, we alleviate the tenants' reasons for complaint. Once inside, proceed purposefully to the elevator or to the floor that is to be worked rather than loitering at the entrance. This will dispel the suspicion of onlookers.

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1. What does 'bearing thorough witness to the good news' involve?
2. Why are discretion and good judgment necessary in apartment witnessing?
3. When is it best to work apartments, and why?
4, 5. How may we gain access to some apartments that have a locked entrance?
6. What should we do when working buildings that have a doorman?
7. What should we keep in mind regarding our witnessing case?
8. How should the group be organized for apartment witnessing?
9. How may we demonstrate courtesy, and why is this important?

[10] In many apartment buildings, noise carries in the hallways. Therefore, do not speak louder than is necessary to be comfortably heard by the householder. When talking to other publishers, keep your voice low, but speak in a calm, moderate tone so as to avoid arousing suspicion. So that tenants will not be unduly disturbed, some publishers alternate from one end of the hallway to the other end until the floor is worked, instead of knocking on one door after another down a corridor. In addition, knocking on the door in a loud or authoritative manner may frighten those inside.

[11] If the door has a peephole, stand so that anyone looking out can see you and your companion. Look directly at the peephole, and when you detect that someone is looking out, say a warm greeting and begin your presentation. If the person asks, 'Who is it?' you may find it best to give your name and that of the person with you. The householder may then feel better about opening the door. If not, you may still give your presentation through the door.

[12] **Not-at-Homes:** A frequent complaint of superintendents is that they have to pick up literature from the hallway or the grounds. Literature left outside the door can easily fall to the floor and become litter. Therefore, any literature left at not-at-homes should be placed completely out of sight.

[13] **Irate Householders:** If we meet an irate householder who may be inclined to call the superintendent, it is best to leave that particular floor and return at another time. In other cases, it would be wise to leave the building entirely in order to avoid a possible confrontation with the superintendent. Even if the householder does not specifically request that future calls not be made on him, it would be better to make note of the apartment number as a do-not-call and place this with the territory card. As with other do-not-calls, these addresses should be contacted periodically to determine the householder's wishes.

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10. How may we avoid making unnecessary noise in the hallways?
11. What suggestions may help when we knock on a door with a peephole?
12. How may we avoid problems when leaving literature at not-at-homes?
13. What should we do if we meet an irate householder?

[14] **If You Are Asked to Leave:** If while working the building you are asked to leave by the superintendent, security personnel, maintenance personnel, or any other apartment representative, it is wise to comply immediately. Whenever possible, we want to avoid confrontation with resulting threats of legal action and appeals to police. In most cases, apartment personnel are not prejudiced against Jehovah's Witnesses but are simply doing their job.

[15] At times, when a building representative asks you to leave, you may be able to explain in a kindly and tactful manner the reason for your visit. (1 Pet. 3:15) We recognize his responsibility in keeping the residents happy and in maintaining the security of the building. Perhaps he will allow you to remain in the building. But if not, take your leave graciously. If circumstances allow, you may ask for permission to leave literature at regular intervals in the lobby or laundry room. (Col. 4:6) The service overseer should be kept up-to-date regarding such incidents.

[16] Perhaps, after a reasonable period of time, publishers can discreetly attempt to work in the building. However, if problems persist, the elders should contact the branch office for assistance rather than publishers attempting to resolve matters on their own. If publishers are not able to work the apartments, efforts can be made to contact the tenants in other ways, such as by telephone witnessing or writing letters. Some publishers engage in street witnessing in front of or in the immediate vicinity of the apartment building during the morning and evening hours when people generally go to work and return home.

[17] The end of this wicked system is coming soon. Only those who call on the name of Jehovah will be saved. "However, how will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard?" (Rom. 10:13, 14) Many who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life" live in apartments. (Acts 13:48) By being discreet and demonstrating good judgment, we can reach them with the good news.

14, 15. What should we do if we are asked to leave by an apartment representative?
16. What should we do if problems persist when trying to work an apartment building or complex?
17. Why is apartment witnessing important?

2009 District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] All of us look forward to the 2009 district convention and the new opportunities to gather with fellow praisers of Jehovah, who are "conscious of their spiritual need." (Matt. 5:3) With Jehovah's day fast approaching, we urge each one to be in attendance for *all three days* so as to benefit fully from the warm Christian fellowship as well as the spiritual encouragement to stand firm in the faith. (Zeph. 1:14) Let teachers and employers know that the convention is an essential part of your worship. Courageously make your plans early and seek Jehovah's blessing; you can be sure of his support.—Isa. 50:10.

Program Times:

Thursday
(International Conventions Only)
1:20 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Friday and Saturday
9:20 a.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Sunday
9:20 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[2] **International Conventions:** Since these conventions will be held in a limited number of countries and cities, *only those assigned should attend.* Our cooperation with this arrangement will prevent overcrowding. (1 Cor. 14: 40; Heb. 13:17) However, a good number of district conventions will have an international flavor, since many missionaries, Bethelites in foreign service, and international servants will be attending a convention in their home country.

[3] **Helping Others Attend:** Do some in your congregation need assistance to attend the convention? When you help others to do so, you are "keeping an eye, not in personal interest upon just your own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others."—Phil. 2:4.

[4] **Obtaining Information:** To reduce telephone calls to the branch office regarding convention dates and locations, please first consult the March 1, 2009, issue of *The Watchtower* or your congregation secretary for the information you need.

[5] If you will attend a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, you may obtain a *Recommended Lodging List* by writing to the rooming headquarters' address, located on the back of the current *Special Needs Room Request* form. These forms will soon be sent to congregation secretaries. To receive a reply, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your letter.

[6] **Special Needs:** When a publisher requests assistance in obtaining accommodations, the Congregation Service Committee should determine if the publisher qualifies to submit a *Special Needs Room Request* form. They should review the guidelines on the form and in the December 14, 2008, letter addressed to all bodies of elders before the congregation secretary sends the form to the Rooming Department.

1. (a) What blessings will we enjoy by attending all three days of the district convention? (b) What plans should we make now?

2. What international flavor might we anticipate even if we have not been invited to attend an international convention?

3. How can we manifest Christian love to some in our congregation?

4, 5. If circumstances require that you attend a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, how should you proceed?

6. What is the procedure to follow when a publisher with special needs requests assistance with accommodations?

Rooming Instructions:

- Do not make hotel reservations before your Service Meeting the week of January 5, 2009.
- Try to make your reservation in the month of January.
- Stay *only* in the hotels on the *Recommended Lodging List.*
- Accept only the rate shown on the list.
- Each room should be reserved in the name of the person who will actually occupy it.
- Fire regulations require that you not exceed the number of adults that the list allows for each hotel room.
- Keep your first reservation. —Matt. 5:37.
- Do not call hotels that are not on the list to ask if they have a rate for our conventions.
- If there are no rooms available after calling ALL the hotels listed or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should communicate with the convention Rooming Department by using the contact information on the *Recommended Lodging List.*
- If you must cancel a reservation, do so as early as possible. Be sure to receive a cancellation number.

[7] **Making Your Hotel Reservation:** The *Recommended Lodging List* of available hotels will be posted on the information board at the conclusion of your Service Meeting for the week of January 5. *Before* making your hotel reservation, carefully review the box "Rooming Instructions." When making your hotel reservation:

- Call hotels during daytime business hours using the phone numbers on the list.
- Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
- Provide the dates you will check in and check out.
- If all rooms are booked, call another hotel on the list.
- Make your reservation, and request a confirmation number.
- Make your deposit within ten days by credit card, check, or money order. If a deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front. Never send cash.

[8] We realize that some may have their own preference regarding hotels. However, when we use hotels not listed on the *Recommended Lodging List* or accept a rate higher than what is listed, we undermine the rooming arrangement. Please do not reserve rooms that you do not plan to use or cancel a hotel reservation at the last minute in order to use a different hotel. By cooperating with this arrangement, you will assist *everyone* to obtain a hotel room at a reasonable rate.—1 Cor. 10:24.

[9] **Works That Glorify God:** When we demonstrate the fruitage of the spirit in all our affairs, giving particular attention to our speech and demeanor when dealing with hotel staff and others in the convention city, we add to the good reputation of Jehovah's people and avoid stumbling others. (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:3, 4) May *your* attendance and conduct glorify God in such ways at the 2009 district convention! —1 Pet. 2:12.

7. (a) How may we proceed with making a hotel reservation? (b) What reminders will assist us in keeping a good reputation with hotel management? (See box "Rooming Instructions.")

8. How can we assist all to obtain a hotel room at a reasonable rate?

9. What should be our primary concern as we prepare for and attend the 2009 district convention?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If individuals say they have children, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1992 with the exception of *Creation, Greatest Man, Mankind's Search for God,* and *Young People Ask.* **February:** Offer one of the following, as available: *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Secret of Family Happiness,* or *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies.

■ The video program *The Bible —Mankind's Oldest Modern Book* will be considered at a Service Meeting in March. If needed, copies of the DVD *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy—On DVD,* which contains this program, should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year **2010** will be on Tuesday, March 30, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

■ The Memorial invitations for 2009 in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested as soon as possible by using the jw.org Web site or, if that is not possible, by submitting the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). A listing of the languages in which Memorial invitations are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ As a reminder, all congregations should notify the branch office of their meeting times as they will be on January 1. If this has not been done, the congregation secretary should immediately do so by using the jw.org Web site or, if that is not possible, by sending a letter.

■ The presiding overseer should arrange for the congregation's accounts to be audited for the months of September, October, and November. The same person should not be used for consecutive audits. When the audit is complete, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-44 in the form entitled *Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls* (TO-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 29, 2008. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 3 through December 29, 2008.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is it effective to give exhortation "on the basis of love"? (Philem. 9) [*be* p. 266 pars. 1-3]
2. How can we instill courage in others? [*be* p. 268 par. 4–p. 269 par. 2]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

3. How is Paul's letter to Titus "fine and beneficial" to us today? (Titus 3:8) [*si* p. 241 par. 8]
4. Why was Peter's first letter timely? [*si* p. 251 par. 1]
5. What effect should the symbolisms of Revelation have on us? [*si* p. 263 par. 1]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

6. Why might Paul have linked "not slanderous" with "neither enslaved to a lot of wine" at Titus 2:3? [*w94* 6/15 p. 20 par. 12]
7. Does Satan's "having the means to cause death" indicate that he can cause the premature death of anyone he chooses? (Heb. 2:14) [*w08* 10/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive —Highlights From the Letters to Titus, to Philemon, and to the Hebrews"]
8. Who is "the human covenanter" of the new covenant? (Heb. 9:16) [*w08* 10/15 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Letters to Titus, to Philemon, and to the Hebrews"]
9. What does it mean to be peaceable, and what questions might we ask ourselves in this regard? (Jas. 3:17) [*w08* 3/15 p. 24 par. 18]
10. What is meant by the expression "God is greater than our hearts"? (1 John 3:20) [*w05* 8/1 p. 30 par. 19]

Are You Using the *Reasoning* Book?

[1] The apostle Paul endeavored to 'reason from the Scriptures.' (Acts 17:2, 3; 18:19) In so doing, he imitated Jesus, who frequently quoted the Scriptures and used illustrations to help his listeners understand God's will. (Matt. 12:1-12) The book *Reasoning From the Scriptures* has been designed to help us do the same.

[2] **Preparing Effective Introductions:** *Reasoning From the Scriptures* contains interest-arousing introductions on pages 9-15. Learning and using different introductions, especially if you cover the territory frequently, will add variety to your ministry and help you become more versatile and effective in starting conversations. Introductions may be read directly from the book when engaging in telephone witnessing or when speaking over the intercom in high-security buildings.

[3] **Overcoming Conversation Stoppers:** Why not anticipate the conversation stoppers that may arise in your territory and take a few minutes before preaching to review pages 16-21 for a potential reply? Will some householders likely be Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, or Muslims? If so, the information on pages 21-24 will be helpful.

[4] **Answering Questions:** The *Reasoning* book can also assist us when a question or a controversial subject is raised. You may simply tell the person that you would like to show him something interesting that you have on the subject and take out your *Reasoning* book. Since the subjects are listed in alphabetical order, turn to the main heading that you think will have the information you need. Then scan the questions in boldface type. If you do not quickly see what you are looking for, turn to the index at the back. Once you find the appropriate information, read it directly from the publication. If you are discussing a specific scripture, you may find what you need on page 445 under "Scriptures Often Misapplied."

[5] **Other Uses:** Some keep a copy of the *Reasoning* book at their job or at school to help them answer questions such as, 'Why don't you celebrate holidays?' Youths have found the information under the headings "Creation" and "Evolution" helpful in preparing school reports. Are you going to visit someone who is sick or who has lost a loved one in death? The material under "Encouragement" may help you to provide Scriptural comfort. The *Reasoning* book also has helpful information for those preparing talks and conducting meetings for field service.

[6] When preaching, our goal is not to win arguments; neither is it simply to convey information. We want to reason skillfully from the Scriptures. As we make good use of the *Reasoning* book, we show that we are paying constant attention to our teaching.—1 Tim. 4:16.

1. How did the apostle Paul and Jesus teach others?
2. How may we use the *Reasoning* book to prepare effective introductions?
3. What is found on pages 16-24 of the *Reasoning* book that will help us in the ministry?
4. How may we use the *Reasoning* book when a question or a controversial subject is raised?
5. What are some other beneficial uses of the *Reasoning* book?
6. What is our goal when preaching?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Dec. 1**

"Have you noticed that people differ in their standards of cleanliness and hygiene? [Allow for response.] Here is one reason why cleanliness is important. [Read 1 Peter 1:16.] This article gives some practical suggestions for maintaining cleanliness." Feature the article that begins on page 9.

Awake!® Dec.

"Many try to honor Jesus this time of year. According to this verse, what would you say is the best way to honor him? [Read John 14:15. Allow for response.] The exact date of Jesus' birth is not known, and you may be surprised to learn why December 25 was adopted as the date for Christmas." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Jan. 1**

"People the world over differ in their views about Mary, the mother of Jesus. What are your thoughts? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows that Mary had a unique role in history. [Read Luke 1:30-32.] This magazine discusses what we can learn from her example."

Awake!® Jan.

"Many of the world's lakes and rivers are drying up, and millions of people don't have access to clean drinking water. Do you think man is capable of providing a lasting solution to this problem? [Allow for response. Then read Jeremiah 10:23.] This magazine discusses the ultimate solution as described in the Bible."